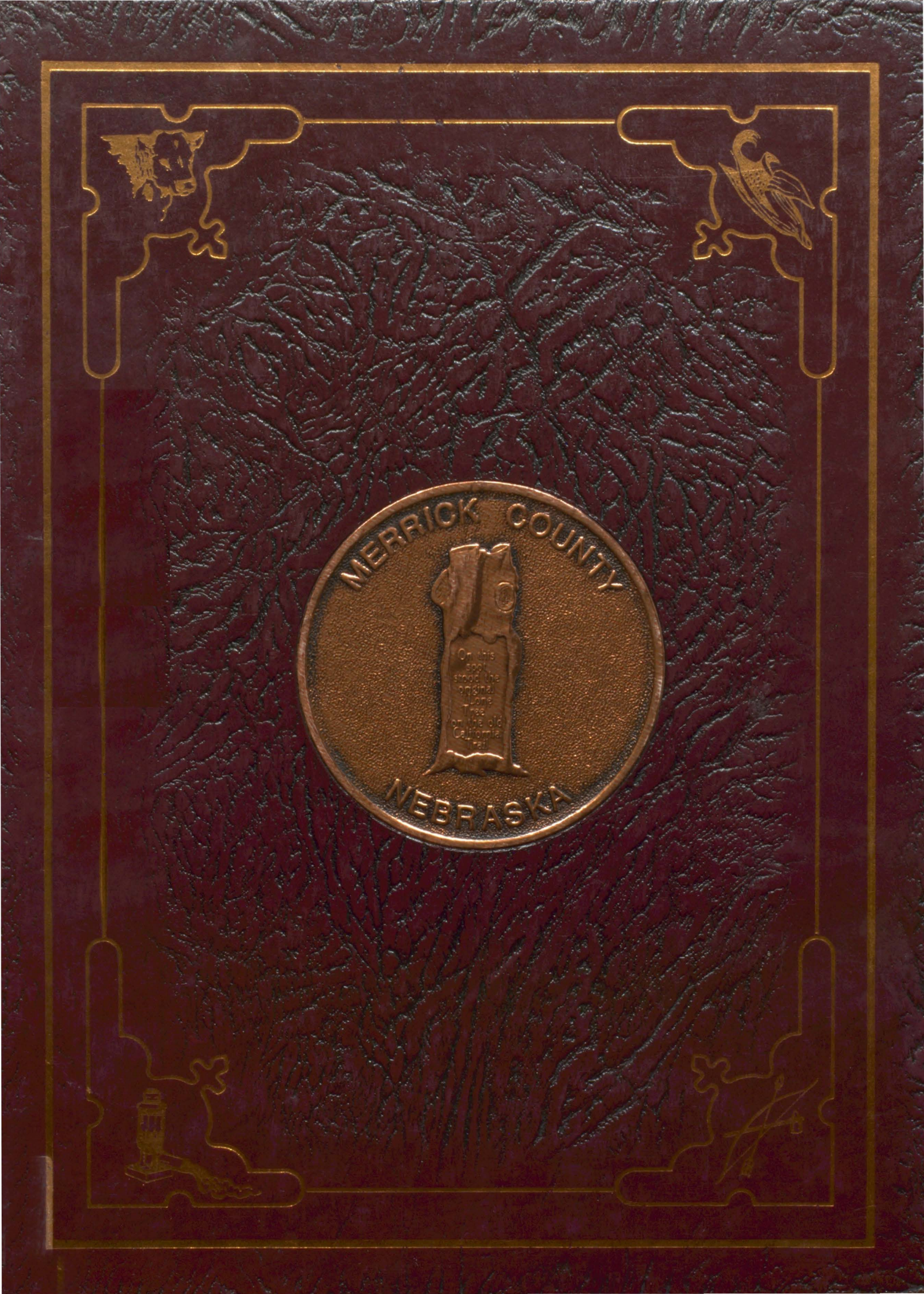
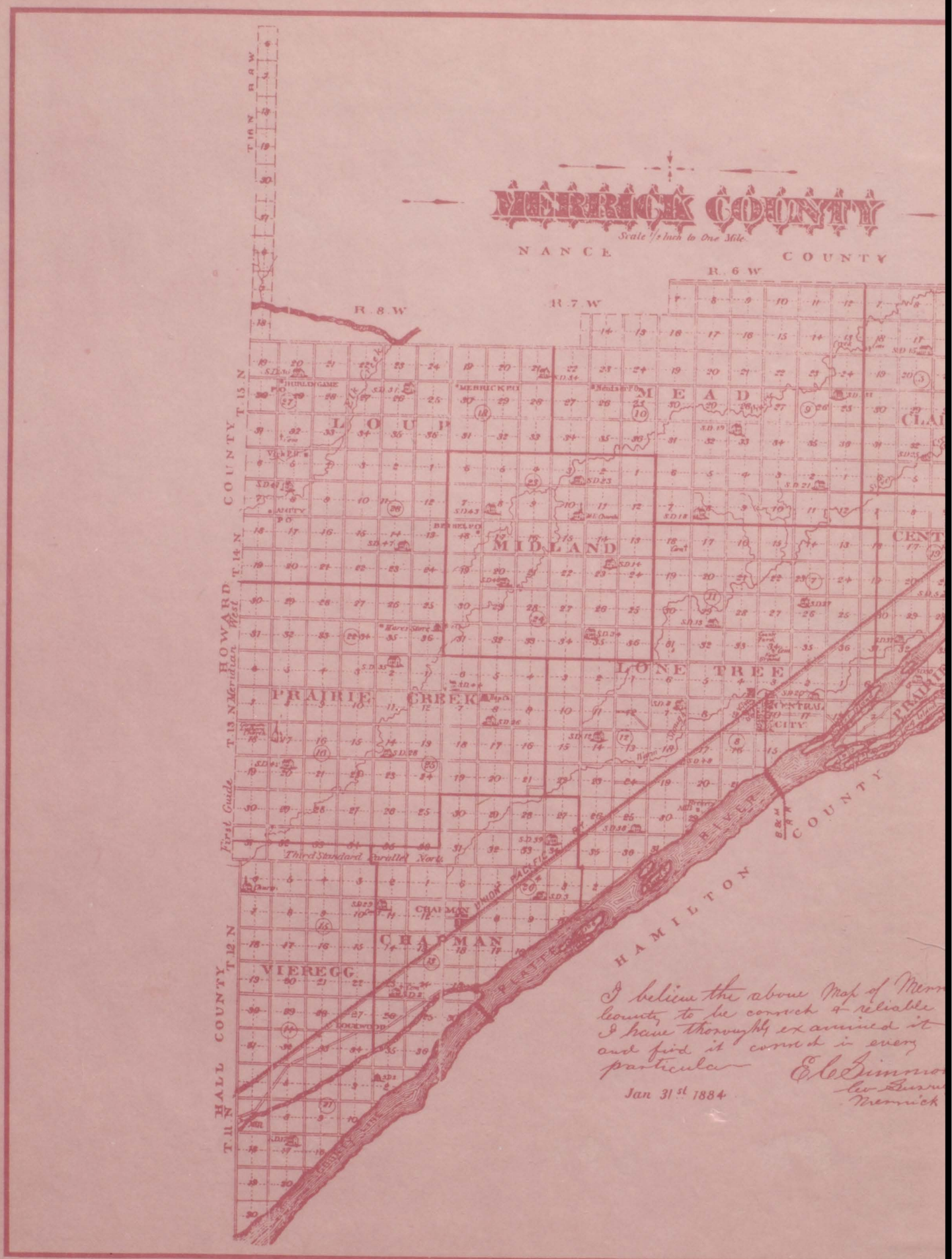
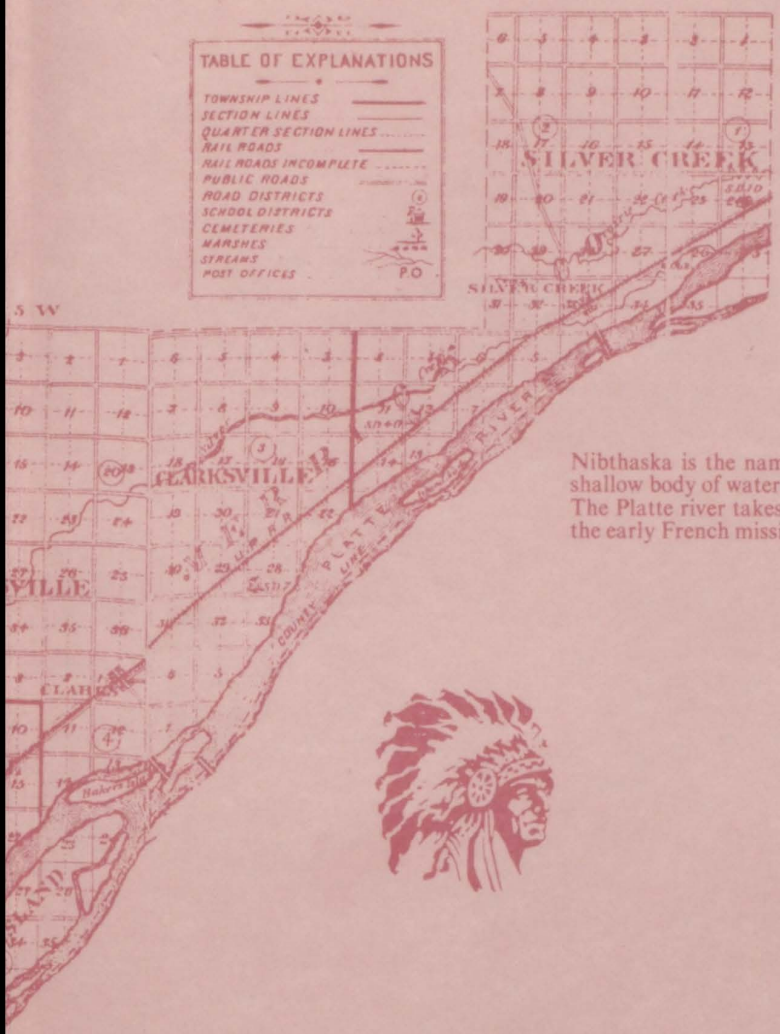

MERRICK COUNTY
NEBRASKA


MERRICK COUNTY
Scale 1½ Inch to One Mile
NANCE COUNTY
R. 6 W
R. 7 W
R. 8 W
T 15 N R 8 W
COUNTY
T. 14 N
T. 13 N
T. 12 N
T. 11 N
HOWARD
HALL COUNTY
HAMILTON COUNTY
6th P.M.
First Guide
Third Standard Parallel North
MEAD
MIDLAND
LONE TREE
PRAIRIE CREEK
CHAPMAN
VIEREGG
CENTRAL CITY
PRAIRIE
UNION PACIFIC
PLATTE RIVER
MERRICK PO
HURLBURT GAME
ANITY PO
CHAPMAN
I believe the above Map of Merr
County to be correct & reliable
I have thoroughly examined it
and find it correct in every
particular
Jan 31st 1884
E. C. Zimmer
Co Surv
Merrick



Nibthaska is the name given by the Indians to the Platte River, because it is a broad, shallow body of water,
The Platte river takes its name from the French word for flat or shallow applied to it by the early French missionaries and explorers.



Ho for the West! The truth will out! The best farming and stock raising country in the world! Not too hot or too cold. The large population now pouring into this region, consists of shrewd and well-informed farmers, who know what is good, and are taking advantage of the opportunities offered. There are plenty of lands elsewhere but they are in regions which can never be largely prosperous. Southern Nebraska, with its fine soil, pure water, and moderate climate is the right country for a new home. Go and see for yourself.

Burlington and Missouri River Railroad





History of Merrick County Nebraska 1981



Written by the people of
Merrick County, Nebraska
and Compiled by the Merrick County
History Book Committee



Back row L-r: Orville Nicholas, Rex Ferris, Paula Bosselman, Ronald Glasser, T.C. Reeves **2nd row:** Portia Reeves, Mary Janky, Phoebe McCullough, Kathleen Staroska **3rd row:** Nita Watkins, Edna Widman, June Vipperman, Ethel Sweet **4th row:** Emma Nicholas, Elizabeth Mason, Dorothy Glasser, Nancy Johnson **5th row:** Virginia Marsh, Donna Ferris, Velma McLean, Karen Dunham, Ellen Campbell

Book Committee

This page provides the reader of this book with the names of some of the persons who took the idea of a book of Merrick County History and made it a reality.

The project was sponsored by the Merrick County Historical Society and was under the leadership of Ted C. and Portia Reeves, Nancy Johnson and Donna Ferris who realized the importance of the project. They worked diligently to bring it about and deserve a special "Thank you."

To the public who came to the meetings . . . To those who compiled mailing lists and addressed letters . . . To those who promoted the book, and encouraged others to write their histories . . . To each individual who helped in any way, a thank you is due.

In addition to this all-inclusive thank you, and at the risk of omitting some who should have been included, here is a list of a few of those persons who have volunteered their skills and untold hours of time in the large and demanding task of putting together a finished book:

Helen Anderson, Paula Bosselman, Ellen Campbell, Norma Cutler, Ilene Dearking, Elvira Dexter, Karen Dunham, Dorothy Glasser, Rhonda Glasser, Raymona Grigsby, Marla Grigsby, Mary Janky, Thomas E. Kelly, Virginia Marsh, Elizabeth Mason, Phoebe McCullough, Velma McLean, Orville Nicholas, Lois Parker, Joyce Steckmeyer, Ethel Sweet, Kathleen Staroska, June Vipperman, Nita Watkins, Edna Widman, Central City Republican-Nonpareil, Palmer Journal, Twin Cities Post

Elaine Petersen who designed the logo used on the cover, and Arlene Scholz for her artwork. Each person who devoted time and attention to writing his or her own or family story is also thanked. It is the combination of these stories which make this book truly a book of Merrick County from the beginning of its settlement to nineteen hundred eighty-one.

We hope the people judge it worthy of their efforts and take pride in this contribution to their heritage for the future.



Bob Jonson, Publishing Consultant

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Society Central City, Nebraska

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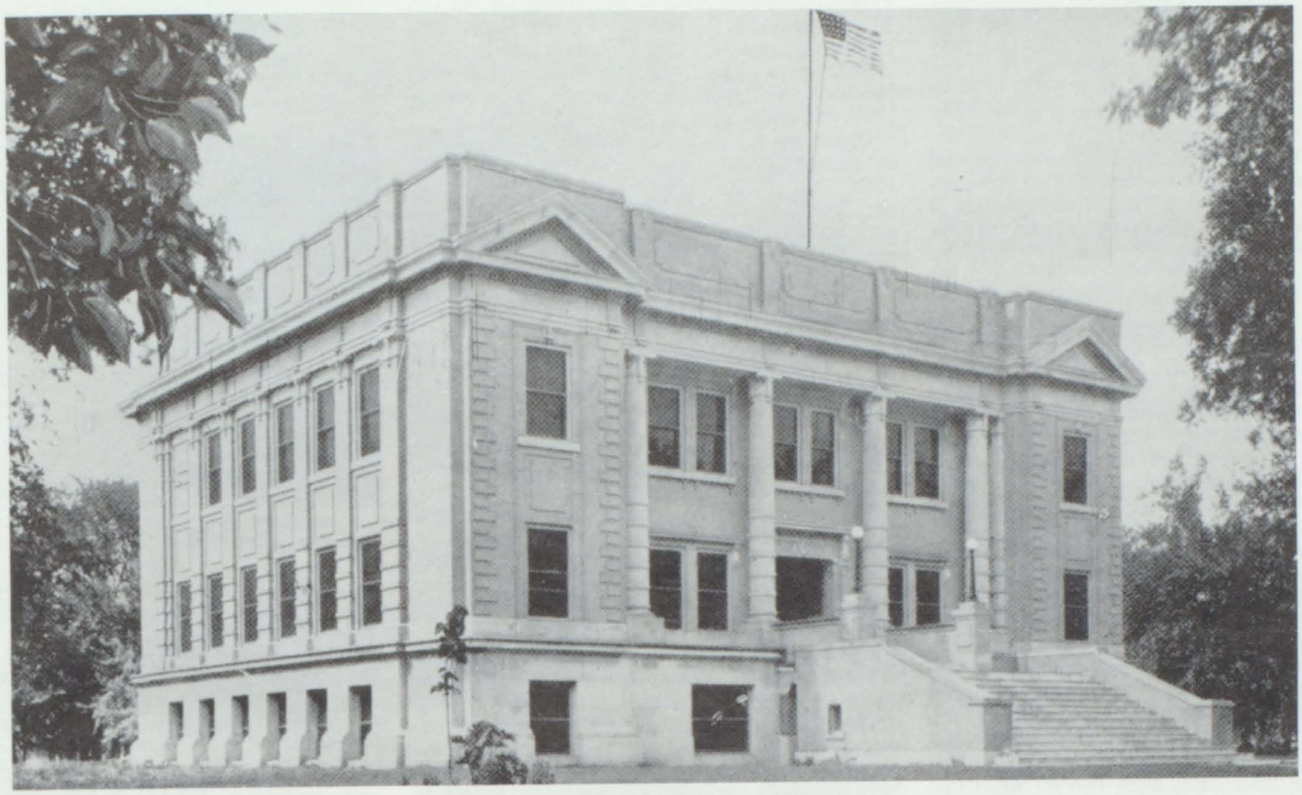
Much history has been lost with the passing of time and the people who lived it. The stories, dates and events that were passed from generation to generation were not often recorded.

The history of Merrick County, Nebraska and its people is no exception to this pattern. We have, therefore, provided the opportunity for those of the present to record the happenings of the past (even as yesterday *is* the past) for those of the future.

Please remember that some of the information contained in the stories may exist only in the memories of the writers. This information is presented in good faith, but it was not possible to verify all material submitted.

It is our hope that the readers of this book will enjoy its contents, written and pictured, as much as those who compiled it, and that through the following pages, we all have gained a deeper sense of who we are and where we have been.

The Merrick County History Book Committee



MERRICK COUNTY, NEBRASKA

EARLY HISTORY

Every spot on earth has an interesting story of its own, and the irregular-shaped area in east central Nebraska known as Merrick County is no exception. We will attempt to reconstruct a portion of the Merrick County story here.

Historical records tell us that white men had their first view of the North American Great Plains as early as 1541, but the area remained largely unknown for three centuries after. In the early 1800's, some prominent pathfinders began making their way through here. Lewis and Clark, Zebulon Pike, Stephen Long, George Catlin, General John C. Fremont, and finally Brigham Young, all made observations as to the topography and possiblilities for human habitation in the Plains.

The "Great American Desert" seemed a formidable place to settle, or even to travel through, and it is remarkable that so many pioneers persisted. It took patience, perseverance, and an indomitable will to survive the rigors of primitive living in this virgin country with its extreme cycles of weather.

Perhaps the first party of white men to cross what is now Merrick County were the seven men who were eastward-bound in the year 1813. John Jacob Astor had sent this party west to Astoria, Oregon, in 1811, in the interest of his fur trade. On their return trip, this little company of men followed the north bank of the Platte River eastward.

Major Long saw Merrick County in the summer of 1820 and reported, "It is almost wholly unfit for cultivation."

Missionaries came to Nebraska as early as 1833, when Moses Merrill worked among the Otoe Indians near Bellevue. Jason Lee, Samuel Parker, and Marcus Whitman were other early missionaries. In 1836, Whitman's bride was the first white woman to cross the trail beside the Platte. Samuel Allis and John Dunbar came in 1834 to minister to the Pawnee Indians located on the north bank of the Loup. It is probable that they traversed part of Merrick County.

Several trails were followed through Nebraska during the 19th century. The one that was pertinent to Merrick County was the Mormon Trail, along the north bank of the Platte River. This trail should not be confused with the Oregon Trail, which originated at St. Joseph, Missouri, and was routed to Fort Kearny. The Oregon Trail passes on the south side of the Platte, through Hamilton County, about thirty miles south of the present Central City.

The wagon trail that was to be followed by the trek of civilization as it moved westward across the plains was indelibly written across Merrick County in April 1847. Brigham Young, the inspired Mormon leader, must be given credit for the establishment of the road west across our county. He and his followers left their winter encampment at Florence, Nebraska, just north of Omaha, on April 16, 1847. Young chose the Platte River route over the earlier-existing Oregon Trail purposely, in order to avoid social contact with other travelers who might constantly harass his people because of religious prejudice. This first Mormon party crossed the Loup River somewhere between Columbus and the Loup forks, and came to the Platte Valley to continue their journey. There were 143 persons in thirty wagons. A very great number of later Mormon parties followed this route over the next five years.

There were three families of Mormons who refused to obey the doctrine of polygamy and returned to Merrick County. They were the families of Thomas G. Morgan, James Huteson, and George Mills. The Morgan family became Episcopalians and the other two families Presbyterians.

With the discovery of gold in California in 1848, the wagon traffic multiplied first by hundreds, then by thousands. This gave rise to the second name for the trail, the California Trail. The discovery of gold in Colorado in 1852 added a new volume of traffic. Few attractions are more magnetic than the possibility of embracing quick wealth by possession of gold.

Merrick County's most famous landmark, the Lone Tree, was along the Mormon/California Trail, and was watched for by all travelers coming through. This gigantic cottonwood must have been a flourishing tree at the time of the American Revolution.

Western Stage Lines selected the route of the Mormons when they established a new link of transportation to the west in 1858. The stage station was located just a few rods west of the historic Lone Tree. It was the first building in the county, and was constructed partially of logs, with a sod roof.

Years later, when engineers chose the right of way for the transcontinental railroad, the Union Pacific, they endorsed the Platte River Valley as the route across Nebraska. The railroad was built across Merrick County during June and July of 1866.

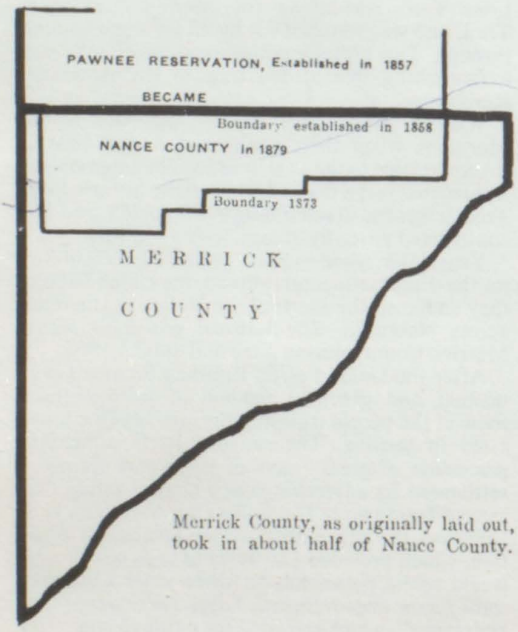
After the Union Pacific Railroad became a permanent and practical method of transporation, some of the people traveling through became interested in settling. The railroad itself came into possession of great tracts of land, and promoted settlement by advertising their land at prices that ranged from two to five dollars per acre. The U.S. Congress, in 1862, authorized the homestead provision, which provided 160 acres to each settler who would retain possession for three years and make some minor improvements. Later, there were "timber claims", which provided for a title to land after planting trees.

Several national backgrounds were represented in the immigrants who settled in the communities of our county. Probably the earliest settlers of Merrick County were mostly of English origin — not directy from England, but from our eastern states from Iowa to New York. Refugees from the Irish Potato Famine came by the thousands to the United States and Canada. Several of these eventually made their way to Merrick County. Immigrants from Germany may have been the greatest in number. However, Swedes, Danes, Poles, and a few Welsh and Scots also chose to live permanently among us. Some of the families are still represented in Merrick County, down to the fourth and fifth generation and beyond in 1981. The diversity of the national backgrounds was not a serious handicap. The cultural patterns of the various homelands were in evidence for perhaps two or three generations, then dissolved into "the melting pot of America."

This history should be considered a tribute to those pioneers who became our permanent citizens. Only the courageous and stouthearted left the security and comfort of the eastern states to follow the trails westward to Nebraska and other Plains states. Settling here meant pitting their moral and physical strength against the harsh realities of a stubborn climate with extremes of heat and drouth, then cold and blizzards. After some of the elements had been conquered, hailstorms and grasshoppers had to be reckoned with. The free or low-cost land was not as free as advertised, because the Plains area yielded her treasurers reluctantly. The well-being and security of the pioneers were assured only after grimly taxing their physical and emotional fortitude.

By 1858, enough travelers had dropped off the trail to become settlers that our territorial legislature established a county here. It was natural that the southern boundary of the county be the Platte River, and the northern boundary the Loup. The east and west boundaries were also set when the Nebraska Territorial Legislature met in Omaha in November of 1858. Legislator Henry W. DePuy of Dodge County sponsored the legislative act which defined the boundaries and established the county. The act was passed on November 5, 1858. Mr. DePuy had married a woman whose name was Elvira Merrick, and he suggested the name Merrick for the county. Elvira was a suggested name for the county seat, but its proposed site (in the Clarks area) was never developed. Merrick County has the distinction of being the only county in Nebraska named after a woman.

Merrick County has a land area of 498 square miles, for a total of 307,264 acres. Its original geographical area included most of what is now Nance County. A remnant of that original area remains as the Merrick County Strip, on Nance County's western boundary. The federal government had set aside the area now inside Nance County as a reservation for the Pawnee Indians in the late 1850's. After the Indians moved to Oklahoma in 1876, Nance County was opened for settlement. What is now the Merrick County Strip, according to legend, was an area that white settlers were not allowed to cross with liquor for the Indians. At various times, the Merrick County Supervisors have tried to give the nine mile long, one-half mile wide strip to either Nance or Howard Counties. Neither wants it, presumably because of the responsibility of bridge upkeep.



Merrick County, as originally laid out, took in about half of Nance County.

Discussion for county organization became serious in 1863. The first election was held on April 18, 1864, when records show Merrick County had forty permanent residents. There were three voting places: Eagle Island (a stage station in the eastern precinct), the Jason Parker home or tavern in Lone Tree, and Shoemaker's Point in the western precinct. There were twenty-seven ballots cast in the three precincts, with W.H. Mitchell elected County Clerk, T.H. Parker the first County Sheriff, Wells Brewer elected County Treasurer, H.N. Lathrop the new Prosecuting Attorney, J.G. Brewer elected to be Probate Judge, and County Commissioners Jason Parker, Jesse Shoemaker, and George Gelsten. This figures out to eight of the twenty-seven voters being elected to office. One wonders who they ran against! To give this election legal status, Platte County officials offered their co-operation.

County population reached a peak in 1920 — 10,763 persons were recorded on the census taken in June of that year. The 1981 population is considered to be 8,890.

At the date of this appraisal, we survey the accomplishments of our pioneer parents and grandparents with both pride and gratitude. The wealth of our county is based upon our very successful agriculture industry. The techniques of irrigation and commercial fertilizer, coupled with a fertile soil, have provided a comfortable living for our people. In the early 1980's, Nebraska ranks as the ninth state in the union in regard to agricultural products. Wise nurture and good stewardship of our land has provided a standard of living which has kept pace with our technological age.

Merrick County has been a major influence in my own life. I have lived for more than three score and ten years on this good land, within one mile of the spot where I was born. With the completion of an interesting and wholesome life, I hope that the friendly earth will accept me into her bosom and will shelter my remains through the eons of time. *Submitted by Ted C. Reeves*

LONE TREE

Merrick County's early claim to fame was the Lone Tree on the California Trail. Legend has it that this solitary cottonwood, which stood on the bank of the Platte River, was a council site for plains Indians. While the Pawnee nation made some moral claim to the area and may have named the tree, there are also some remnants of Sioux hunting parties.

Some of the pilgrims who passed the tree in the 1840's and '50's described it as being nine or ten feet in circumference, and fifty to sixty-five feet high. All agree that it was a prominent landmark. On a clear day, travelers could sight the tree from a distance of twenty-five miles.

The tree offered shade and shelter to thousands of pioneers as they moved westward in their covered wagons and other oxen and horse-drawn vehicles. Perhaps hundreds of campfires at its base, plus the use of the tree as a calendar and signboard, hastened its demise. With each new set of initials carved on the tree, there was the challenge for the next wagon train to carve the date of their passing. Come the spring of 1863, the Lone Tree failed to leaf out. The great storm of 1865 authored the final chapter for the tree, for during the storm, it crashed to the ground. The present monument at the site of the Lone Tree was erected in the year 1911.

When the Union Pacific Railroad platted the townsite of Lone Tree in 1866, the choice of a name was not a great problem: the community and post office at the Brewer Mill site were already well established with the name of Lone Tree.



"Lone Tree Monument"

In 1874, a group of local citizens proposed a change in the name for the community. Central City was a popular choice, since it was supposed that our geographical location was halfway between Boston and San Francisco. Thus we lost our historic name. *Submitted by Ted C. Reeves*

INDIANS

Native Americans were, by their heritage, a resourceful and remarkable people. Most of our older citizens grew up knowing our native Americans by the common reference, as Indians.

The Pawnee Nation were the most prominent of the nations with whom the Merrick County settlers became acquainted.

The largest of the Pawnee villages was located near the present site of Genoa, Nebraska. The Indian name of that village was Chan-i. The westernmost of the four villages was located about five miles northwest of the present town of Palmer, and was called Skidi, or Wolf.

The Pawnee nation as a whole was never at war with the settlers. Under some circumstances, when short of food probably, some Pawnee were guilty of theft of livestock and other food items.

Some settlers may have had some sense of security when a band of Pawnee were camped in nearby areas. They did serve as some protection against the Sioux and Cheyenne. Generally the Comanches, the Cheyennes, the Utes, the Arapohoes and especially the Sioux were constant enemies of the Pawnee.

Historians estimate the population of the Pawnee nation at 10,000 persons in the year 1800. Several epidemics of smallpox decimated their numbers between 1800 and 1850. The epidemic of small pox claimed 1200 of their number in 1849.

In 1857, the Pawnee nation ceded their land to the United States and agreed to move to the Loup River area. This Reservation, now Nance County, became their home for the next fifteen years.

Their numbers were estimated at between 3000 and 4000 in 1859. In 1873, the Pawnee, on a buffalo hunt in the Republican valley near Trenton in Hitchcock County, were ambushed by the Sioux and eighty-six of their number were killed. Later in 1873, three hundred of the Pawnee moved to Oklahoma to live near the Wichita Tribe. Fifteen hundred moved to Oklahoma in 1874. In 1875, the remaining 2,200 members of the Pawnee Nation left Nebraska.

The Pawnee were perhaps the most advanced in culture of any of the Plains Indians. Their pattern of farming was quite successful by primitive standards. They also had some success in health care. Regligion, handiwork and music were other areas in which their culture had made considerable progess.



"A group of Pawnee earth lodges at Loup Fork showing details of construction, and, by comparison with the human figures, giving some idea of the size of the mounds."

Photo: Courtesy Wm. H. Jackson

The Skidi Tribe of the Pawnee were the only tribe of American Indians who practiced human sacrifice.

The legends which surround the practice of human sacrifice are numerous. Historians agree that the site of ceremonial location of the annual sacrifice was adjacent to the Skidi village about five miles northwest of Palmer, Nebraska. This location is about one half mile north of the Loup River and is on a geographical area that is on the Merrick County Strip.

Before the crops were planted in the spring, their religious convictions suggested that they sacrifice a young virgin female to appease the Morning Star. This sacrifice would prove their gratitude to the Spirit over which the Morning Star had great influence. Good crops and other general blessings of life would come when the Spirit of the Morning Star had been appeased.

Petra Lesharu was one of the best known of the Pawnee chiefs. According to legend, the young chief fell in love with a young maiden that was selected for sacrifice in a ceremony about 1820. Through his persuasion and influence the practice of sacrifice was abandoned.

Samuel Allis came as a Missionary to the Pawnee in 1834. He was followed by William Dunbar in 1836. These men also urged the Pawnees to abandon the practice of human sacrifice.

The Nebraska Historical Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska, has created a display of the sacrificial victim on the scaffold.

Historic items which Mr. Allis and Mr. Dunbar used in their mission work with the Pawnee have been preserved by Nebraska Historical Society. The concept of the type of scaffold used, and the actual sacrifice of the life of the selected candidate, are the result of reports left by Allis and Dunbar.

It was considered an honor for all male Indians of twelve years of age or over to take part in the ceremony. The bow and arrow was the standard weapon and the heart of the victim was the target. No other tribe of Indians in America included this pattern of sacrifice in their religious culture. *Submitted by Ted C. Reeves*

WATERWAYS

The rivers and streams of Merrick County have played an important role in the settlement and development of each area.

The Platte River Valley provided a great natural highway for the first primitive travel through Nebraska. Generally free from hills and canyons, the grades were not difficult for horse-drawn or oxen-drawn vehicles to travel. Merrill Mattes, in his book, **The Great Platte River Road,** has said that the valley of the Platte River furnished the best, the broadest, and the longest of the world's great natural highways.

The Platte has been called the "sorriest river in our country — a mile wide and an inch deep." Others have said it was "too thick to drink and too thin to plow." But the Platte River has proven to be one of the greatest resources of Nebraska, and Merrick County residents have appreciated it through the years. It has been a haven and a rest-stop for waterfowl on their spring and fall migrations. Geese, ducks, and sandhill cranes find the river a natural feed and rest stop, even with current economic demands. It has certainly made a great contribution to farm irrigation, both in Nebraska and Colorado.

Even our pioneers must have been pleased to find an endless supply of good water within eight to sixteen feet below the surface of the ground in the river valley. First the dug well, then the steel pipe with sandpoint, furnished domestic needs and also an adequate supply for farm and ranch animalas.

The river bank, with some excavation, sheltered at least one of our county's first settlers, Jason Parker survived the winter of 1858-59 in his dugout, and went back for his family in the spring of 1859.

The Platte is the largest of the tributaries of the Missouri River. Both the Loup and the Elkhorn add to the total dimension of the Platte watershed.

The North Platte River has contributed drainage from eastern Wyoming. It is no wonder that other states are envious of our Platte and would like to use some of its waters in this time of water shortage.

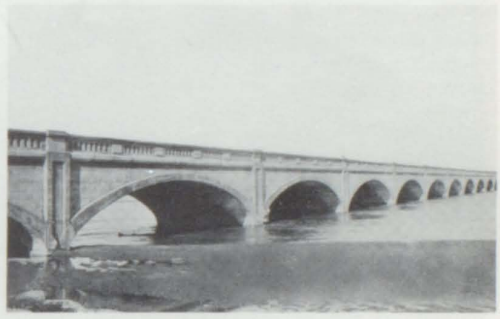
Many of us in Merrick County are conscious of the gift which the river has brought to us, in near-level topography, fertile soil, and timber.

While the Platte, for a distance of forty-five miles from southwest to northeast, defines our southern boundary, the Loup River touches our north boundary for only a short distance, but it too has made a contribution to our agriculture. The area around the Loup is of interest to historians as well, because of Indian relics to be found from the many early-day encampments and burial grounds of our native Americans.

Both the Platte and the Loup were sources of timber for some of the earliest log and frame houses in the county, and it is supposed that they contributed fish and game to the pioneer diet before domesticated meat animals could be brought in.

There are three smaller streams in Merrick County worthy of mention. Warm Slough, which originates south of Grand Island, in eastern Hall County, winds its way through a sizeable section of the county. Silver Creek originates north of Chapman and eventually empties into the Platte. Prairie Creek, a rather long stream, originates in Buffalo County, flows through nearly the length of Merrick County, and enters the Platte a few miles east of Silver Creek. It is fed by Moore's Creek, which originates northeast of Grand Island and empties into Prairie Creek about three miles north and two east of Archer. These streams are dry beds for much of the year now, becasue of irrigation, but in earlier days, many children enjoyed fishing and swimming in their waters.

Most of the lakes and ponds in Merrick County are man-made, either for irrigation purposes, or as a result of sand and gravel pumping. These have added recreational facilities to our county. *Submitted by Ted C. Reeves*



"Concrete Platte River Bridge at Central City"



"Old wooden bridge, with wagon turn-outs, one mile long, over Platte River at Central City"



"Chapman, Nebraska 1910"



"Burlington Depot"



"Union Pacific Depot as we knew it"

RAILROADS

The pioneers who first settled Merrick County came by wagon. Horses, mules, and cattle or oxen provided the motive power.

Western Stage Lines began regular runs between Omaha and Denver in 1858. The stage did provide the comfort of an enclosed vehicle to a high percentage of the passengers. Their stage station, built near Lone Tree in 1858, was Merrick County's first building.

By 1860, there was serious discussion in favor of a transcontinental railroad. California had gained some permanent population following the earlier discovery of gold. When Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860, he gave his support to the construction of a transcontinental railroad. The Civil War delayed actual construction by the Union Pacific.

The natural topography of the Platte valley made this choice seem the most practical and economical route. Merrick County was to become the beneficiary of about forty-five miles of Union Pacific tracks. Four townsites were platted adjacent to the Union Pacific in the County, Silver Creek, Clarks, Lone Tree and Chapman. In addition, four locations for shipping livestock were later added for the convenience of the feeders.

The railroad was built across Merrick County in June and July of 1866. The second track was laid down in 1907. In 1981, serious consideration is being given to the possiblity of a third track. The tremendous tonnage of coal moved from central-western states to our industrial centers may be the greatest single cargo. The production of feed grains in Merrick County is another important cargo. Millions of bushels of corn are shipped by both Union Pacific and Burlington lines to the west coast for overseas consumption.

It is interesting to note that the rails in the first track were of fifty-five-pound weight per linear yard. Through the past century, the road bed has undergone constant renovation and improvement. Current rails are 1320 feet in length and weigh 130 pounds per linear yard.

The coming of the railroad to Merrick County in 1866 had great economic benefit. Early locomotives were wood burners. Timber on the Platte River was of sufficient size to warrant harvesting for locomotive fuel. Early settlers cut timber for sale to the Union Pacific. The Platte River was also the source of timber for the ties needed for the Union Pacific bed.

Because the Union Pacific had a monopoly on freight, rates were extremely high. The Burlington lines had extended their rails into Nebraska during the 1870's. Aurora, Nebraska, was, for several years, the western terminal for the Burlington when lines were built west of Lincoln. The Burlington began construction of their line from Aurora to Central City in July of 1879, when 19.65 miles were laid. The first traffic over this road was in April 1880.

After several years of controversy with the Union Pacific about a crossing in Central City, the Burlington built a line to Palmer and Greeley Center in 1887. Two townsites were platted on this new branch, namely, Archer and Palmer. The original intention was to extend the line by way of Palmer to Alliance and points northwest. A large terminal depot turntable and water tower were built at Palmer. A round-house and shops were also built at the Palmer site. The Palmer depot was lost by fire within one year after construction. Burlington officials then decided to route their line through Grand Island, with Ravenna as a division point, enroute to Alliance.

In 1872 and again in 1875, there was an attempt to bring the Midland Pacific across from York to Central City. Officials of the Union Pacific did what they could to discourage this construction, but this line was eventually completed.

By 1920, the automotive trucking industry began to develop. Many lines of freight, including grain and livestock, were being transported by truck. These commodities were being loaded at the farm and delivered to terminal centers for processing. From 1940 until 1970 many branch lines in Nebraska were abandoned, due to lack of business. At this writing in 1981, Merrick County has retained all of its railroad facilities. *Submitted by Ted Reeves*

SETTLEMENTS AND POST OFFICE SITES

Merrick County, Nebraska, has had a number of early post offices, most serving only a few years, or even a few months. The following alphabetical list was made from atlases and maps on file at the Merrick County Museum in Central City in 1981.

Adamston: site unknown. The post office operated from August 25, 1885, through May 11, 1886. It may have been the same site as Adams Center, where a creamery was operated. It was probably located southwest of Archer in Midland Township.

Amity: Southeast Quarter, Section 7, Loup Township. Located two miles south and one west of Palmer, Amity is shown in the 1976 plat book as belonging to Otto Schleuter. It was a post office site from November 7, 1878, through July 13, 1888.

Archer: Sections 20 and 21, Midland Township. The townsite was established in 1887, following building of the Burlington Railroad between Central City and Palmer. The post office opened November 11, 1887, and is still in operation. Warren McBride is now postmaster.

Bethel: Southwest Quarter, Section 18, Midland Township. The present title to the land is held by Harvey Bruns. The post office lasted from July 23, 1879, to July 5, 1883. William and Phoebe Crites were in charge of this office.

Brass: located four miles northwest of Palmer on the Burlington Railroad. No records exist of the dates of operation.

Brewer's Ranch: Northwest Quarter, Section 21, Prairie Creek Township. There was a post office here from April 8, 1864, through 1869. The present owner of the land is Arthur Schmidt. The original Brewer Grist Mill was also located here. The post office was moved here in 1865, from Shoemaker's Point, about three miles west of Chapman. Brewer's Ranch was combined with the Lone Tree office in 1869.

Bryant's Grove: Location unknown. It was a post office site from September 4, 1879, to December 7, 1880. It was perhaps in the Silver Creek area.

Burlingame: Southeast Quarter, Section 22, Loup Township. Two miles north and two miles east of Palmer, the land is now occupied by Gene Rice. Fred Roebeoltmann owns the land. This office was later moved to the Northwest Quarter, Section 28, on land now owned by Charles Tibbetts.

Cattaragus: Southwest Quarter, Section 19, Clarksville Township. The title to the land was held by the Brush Lake Cattle Company. Records do not indicate that a post office was established at the proposed town site.

Central City: See Lone Tree.

Chapman: Post office here opened on December 28, 1868, following the platting of the townsite by the Union Pacific Railroad. It is still in operation and Richard Dehning is pastmaster.

Clarksville: Post office at Clarksville opened February 26, 1869, also on land platted by the Union Pacific. The name was changed to Clarks on June 15, 1880.

Conrad: Location unknown. Conrad was a post office site from May 3, 1881, to May 9, 1882.

Elvira: Townsite, East One-half, Northeast Quarter, Section 13, Township 15 (Clarksville), Range 4 West, about three miles east of Clarks. This proposed townsite was to be Merrick County's county seat.

Farmersville: Location unknown. Post office was recorded from August 18, 1875, to March 8, 1881.

Gardiner Station: Probably a Union Pacific siding between Silver Creek and Duncan. Post office operated from June 30, 1884, through its move to Platte County July 21, 1884.

Havens: Union Pacific siding between Clarks and Silver Creek. Post office operated from June 24, 1919, through 1935.

Heber: Union Pacific siding on the branch line to Stromsburg in Polk County. A former Hord family elevator still stands there.

Junction Ranch: Section 33, Township 15, Range 4. Three and a half miles east of Clarks, the Western Stage Lines stopped here in 1866. C.B. Hartwell operated a trading post here in 1865.

Lester-Merrick: Northwest Quarter, Section 30, Township 15, Range 7. *Lester post office opened February 19, 1878. The name of the site was changed to Merrick January 14, 1880, and Mrs. Sarah Knapp was appointed by the U.S. Postmaster General to be postmistress June 14, 1880. The Merrick County Historical Society has a photo of the sod house where the post office was located on display at the museum in Central City. The land is now owned by Mildred and Elmer Stone.

Lockwood: Union Pacific siding located between Chapman and Grand Island. There was a post office here from November 17, 1874, through July 24, 1890.



"J.C. Knapp sod house, northeast of Palmer. 'Merrick Post Office' was located in the home."

Lone Tree: Originally housed in the Western Stage Lines station which had been built in 1858, Merrick County's first permanent building. The Hilton family homesteaded near this site and owned the land more than one hundred years. Charles and Dorris Benner presently own this land. The post office opened June 10, 1867, and the name was changed to Central City June 30, 1875. Fortunately, the Lone Tree postal hand-cancellation stamp has been preserved. Iva Lear Larson inherited this item from her grandfather, David Albert Lear. He had been a veteran of the Civil War, and was a pioneer blacksmith in Lone Tree. He should be given credit for the preservation of what must have been a very expendible item when the town was so excited about its new name and status. The original stamp was placed in the Merrick County Museum on loan, June 9, 1981. A replica of the stamp had been on display for seven years.

Mentzer: Northwest Quarter, Section 26, Township 15, Range 7. The post office operated from November 26, 1879, through August 27, 1886.

Ogallala: Section 11, Township 14, Range 7. A Burlington siding northwest of Central City, it is presently owned by Frank Jindra and sons.

Paddock: Union Pacific siding three miles west of Central City.

Palmer: See Vick.

Prairie Creek: Located eight miles west of Central City on the Ormsby Road. Post office existed from August 19, 1875, until March 8, 1880. The Harshberger family gave land for the Prairie Creek Baptist Church and Cemetery on this location.

Shoemaker's Point: Southeast Quarter, Section 24, Township 12, Range 8. Three miles southwest of Chapman, the post office opened December 29, 1861. The first postmaster was Mr. Mitchell. The post office closed January 4, 1865, when it was moved to the Brewer Ranch, two miles west of Lone Tree.

Silver Creek: Union Pacific townsite platted in 1866. Post office opened April 4, 1867. This post office is in operation in 1981, having discontinued Sunday mail delivery as recently as 1976.

Silver Glen: An active community about two miles east of Silver Creek on the bank of the stream by the same name. This site is approximately 200 yards south of the present Highway 30. The post office opened January 17, 1870. No record of its closing date is available.

Sunrise: Northeast Quarter, Section 7, Township 15, Range 6 West. The post office at Sunrise operated from June 19, 1899, through November 17, 1906. A general store was active several years after the post office was closed.

Thummel: Union Pacific siding between Central City and Clarks.

Vick: Section 32, Township 15, Range 8 West. Post office opened at Vick on May 14, 1883, and changed to Palmer Post Office November 2, 1887. The townsite of Palmer had been platted by the Burlington Railroad in 1887.

Worms: Sections 17 and 18, Township 13, Range 8 West. The post office at Worms was in operation between October 20, 1897, and November 2, 1901. A general store housing the post office and a blacksmith shop created a traffic flow to Worms over a long period of time.

Note: Stories on several of the above post office sites and townsites appear in the Township section of this book. *Submitted by Ted C. Reeves*

GRIST MILLS

When our county began to attract pioneer settlers, there were certain basic needs that had to be met, particularly shelter and food. Shelter on a temporary basis may have been provided by the wagon in which a family arrived in the county. Sod houses required a sod plow with depth control and some type of vehicle to transport the sod to the building site. The Platte and Loup Rivers had some growth of trees on banks and islands. This timber was probably of sufficient size to construct many of the early log and frame buildings. Very few lives were lost due to exposure, so we know that at least primitive shelter was available.

Fortunately, there was an abundance of wild game in the area to contribute to the food needs of the early population. As modest areas of the native sod were broken for cultivation, it was discovered that corn would respond and produce excellent crops. Wheat and oats followed as staple crops. These three grains, with proper processing, provided variety and energy to family meals. A limited number of milk cows were available, too, to round out the diet with dairy products.

The processing of grain for human use is an age-old occupation. The practical answer through the ages has been the grist mill. The Bible records mention of the threshing floor and the millstone. Merrick County became aware of the need for a grist mill in January of 1872, when the people voted to loan J.J. Brewer about $6000 to construct a mill to be powered by a flow of water from the Platte River. The location was the Southwest Quarter Section 21, Township 13, Range 6 West (about two and a half miles west of the old Lone Tree site), land owned, in 1981, by Arthur Schmidt. A millrace (the ditch that brought water from the river) of 2.4 miles in length was constructed to provide power to turn the millstones.

Three other grist mills were later developed and operated in Merrick County. They were all water-powered. Mill number two was located about 5 miles northeast of Central City. On December 8, 1874, Thomas Stuart transferred a tract of land for a millsite. Three people received the title to the land: Charles B. Wilson, E.M. Richards, and Henry Shively & Co. On the same date, a right of way for a millrace was negotiated. Parties who conveyed land two rods wide for the millrace from the Platte River were: Wm. and Mathilda Howe, William and Jane Brown, Frank and Mary Jewell, and Thomas and Agnes Stuart. After a short period of operation, the mill was sold to H.C. Metcalf for a consideration of $7500. Remnants of the dam at this millsite are still visible. This land is presently owned by Georgia and Don Gray.

Millsite number three was the Silver Glen Mill, located about three miles east of the present town of Silver Creek. Present owners of the land are Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Kielian. The records show that on September 16, 1878, Thomas and Clara Williams sold to Daniel Place and Alonzo Crawford a tract of land to construct a grist mill. Additional rights of way were secured to excavate a millrace from the Platte River, a part of this to occupy the Silver Creek channel. Silver Creek would also convey the water back to the river. The legal description of the millsite is Southeast Quarter of section 26, Township 16, range 3, Merrick County. No record of the number of years this mill was in service is available.

Grist mill number four was located near the west boundary of Merrick County. The site was about ten

rods east of the Hall County line, and approximately fifteen rods south of the Wood River stream. The excavated material from the millrace is still visible. The millsite and right of way for the millrace were purchased from William and Ellen McAllister on April 21, 1882, by Henry Glade and John J. Schaupp. This millsite is located in Section 7, Township 11, Range 8. The land is presently owned by a McLaughlin family. Information on the active operation of the mill is not available. However, members of the Glade family were active in the flour milling business in Grand Island until 1930.

The Merrick County Historical Museum has fragments of millstones used by both the Brewer and the Metcalf mills. *Submitted by Ted. C. Reeves*

PHYSICIANS

List of physicians who have practiced or are now in practice in Merrick County, Nebraska.

Dr. Doolittle
Dr. Fisher
Dr. Guilmont
Dr. J.B. Whittaker — 1870
Dr. E.L. Robinson — 1878
Dr. Wm. Y.R. Gawne — 1880
Dr. Orrin L. Barton — 1881
Dr. E.A. Benton — 1885
Dr. Hooshaw — 1888
Dr. Chas. S. Minnich — 1890
Dr. Solomon Hull — 1891
Dr. Thos. H. Line — 1891
Dr. C.S. Barnett — 1891
Dr. Wilbur Hunt — 1894
Dr. A.L. Muirhead — 1894
Dr. J.E. Benton — 1897
Dr. S.C. Borum — 1897
Dr. H.E. Glatfelter — 1898
Dr. Chas. C. Paxton — 1900
Dr. Frederick Fouts — 1902
Dr. C.H. Fox — 1903
Dr. S.C. Pitts — 1903
Dr. Johanna Logan — 1904
Dr. Newell Jones — 1905
Dr. Earl Eugene Boyd — 1906
Dr. Gates M. Brown — 1907
Dr. John M. Triplett — 1909
Dr. J.W. Hutchison — 1911
Dr. R.R. Douglas — 1911
Dr. A.D. Brown — 1912
Dr. W.J. Arrasmith — 1913
Dr. L.W. Elwood — 1914
Dr. R.D. Balcom — 1920
Dr. J.Y. Racines — 1925
Dr. A.A. Enos — 1935
Dr. Lee Holmes — 1941
Dr. E.T. Zikmund — 1948
Dr. Pischke — 1953-55
Dr. Kenneth R. Treptow — 1953
Dr. Jim Adamson — 1960
Dr. John Campbell — 1961
Dr. Jere Williams — 1971-72
Dr. Barry Turner — 1972-77
Dr. Robert Strange — 1979

The doctors in the field of osteopathy were: Drs. N.J. Hoagland, Nell E. Ross, and Bruce L. Ross. *Submitted by Raymona Grigsby*

SHERIFFS

T.F. Parker — 1865-1867
Charles Combs — 1867-1869
George W. Moore — 1869-1871
Levi B. Willoughby — 1871-1873
William E. Letcher — 1873-1877
Dan Reynolds — 1877-1879
Dan Hopkins — 1879-1883
C.W. Best — 1883-1885
John Lisco — 1885-1887
W.H. Crites — 1887-1891
J.W. Porter — 1891-1895
John H. Sutton — 1895-1899
H.E. Ash — 1899-1903
John D. Hollister — 1903-1907
M.R. Iler — 1907-1911
Frank Scudder — 1911-1916
C.E. Clark — 1916-1922
J.J. Mohr — 1922-1926
W.H. Curry — 1926-1930
J.J. Mohr — 1930-1934
D.E. Crites — 1934-1946
J.H. Kellogg — 1946-1950
Roland D. Gibson — 1950-1958
Arnold Willhoft — 1958-1962
Dan R. Schneiderheinz — 1962-

MERRICK FOUNDATION, INC.

Merrick Foundation is a community foundation, serving all parts of Merrick County for educational, charitable, recreational and community development purposes.



"Merrick Foundation Office"

In 1959 the heirs of Bernice Simmons, of Silver Creek, were desirous of making a substantial contribution from her estate for community purposes, but there was no entity or organization that they felt would properly administer such a fund. It was the suggestion of their attorney that a communtiy foundation would be a proper organization to accomplish this.

Following this suggestion, a meeting of community leaders from all parts of the county was called, and Merrick Foundation, Inc., was formed on February 7, 1960, as a non-profit community foundation. Proper rulings were obtained from the U.S. Treasury Department stipulating that all contributions to Merrick Foundation were fully deductible for all income, gift and estate tax purposes.

Not long after its founding, the Trustees of the Lizzie Litzenberg Testamentary Trust offered to contribute the remaining assets of the trust, amounting to some $210,000, to Merrick Foundation if it would build a nice retirement-type home in Central City.

This offer was accepted, a community drive was made to raise additional funds amounting to $65,000, and Merrick Manor, one of the finest retirement homes in the state, was constructed and opened for occupancy on November 1, 1965, with a bonded debt of only $165,000.

Merrick Manor has always been operated as a separate entity, on a non-profit basis, without any comingling or contribution of funds between the Manor and the Foundation, although owned and operated by the Foundation.

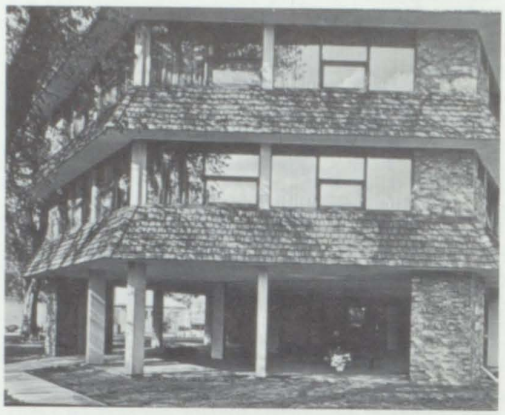
During the first ten years of its existence, other than the funds received for Merrick Manor, not one penny was received by Merrick Foundation, but the last ten years have seen great progress in the real aims and purposes of a community foundation. Beginning in 1970, the Directors started an annual mail solicitation of contributions, and each year more and more people are recognizing the value of the foundation to the entire county and are supporting it with their contributions.

The estates of Artie Stalnaker and Edward Mitchell have each provided more than $15,000, and Mr. Mitchell, during his lifetime, had contributed $14,500 to the Scholarship Fund. James F. and Myrtle V. Clarke provided a fund of $25,000 for recreational purposes. The four Dinsdale brothers furnished a memorial fund for their parents, uncle and aunt, in the amount of $50,000. Edward Santin established a memorial fund in honor of his parents of $10,000. Frederick Roebeoltmann, in his will, provided for $5,000 for Christmas treats in the Palmer area. Mr. and Mrs. George C. Fishburn established a fund in memory of their son, Matthew, in excess of $3,400 for awards to high school graduates. In 1980, Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. Sampson contributed a new office building and its equipment to the Foundation.

Not one penny of these funds are ever actually spent. They are invested, and only the income used for community purposes. As a result, Merrick Foundation now has assets, excluding Merrick Manor, of nearly $300,000 and annually puts several thousand dollars back into the communities of Merrick County. *Submitted by Donald F. Sampson, Executive Director*

MERRICK MANOR

Under the direction of competent administrators, and under the supervision of Merrick Foundation, Merrick Manor has provided home-like accomodations for several hundred central Nebraska citizens since its inception.



"Merrick Manor"

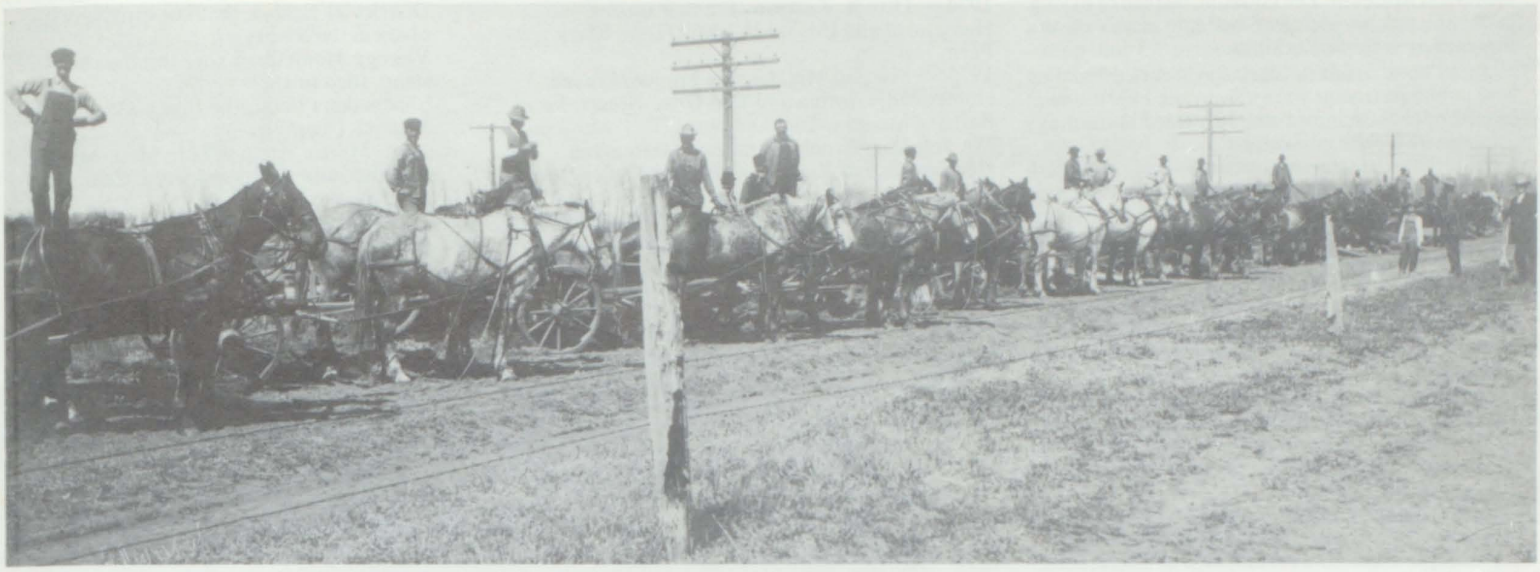
The home opened for residency November 1, 1965. Built by Merrick Foundation, it stands on the site of the former T.B. Hord mansion, which had served for a time as the Central City Hospital. The home accomodates residents in single or double rooms, and is one of the finest homes of its kind in the state.

Guests bring their own favorite pieces of furniture, and pictures or plants to maintain the atmosphere of home. A spotless kitchen, craft room, dining room, and spacious lobby occupy the main floor. Resident rooms are on the second and third floors. Each of the upper floors has a spacious solarium where residents may entertain, play cards, or relax.

Leo Stines served as the first beloved administrator until his retirement in May 1976. Harold Parker managed the home until his death in December 15, 1977. Since then Roland Gibson has managed the home, and is its present administrator, ably caring for the needs of all the residents. *Submitted by Portia Reeves*



The Roy Larsons' first airplane bought in 1947.



"Building Highway #30 West of Central City"

HIGHWAY 30

The main street of Central has had many names. It has been Broad Street, Stitzer Avenue, and Main Street, but it has nearly always been Highway 30. It started out, however, as a lowly alley behind buildings erected facing north toward the Union Pacific tracks. The original town of Lone Tree was platted by the railroad, and business places on the blocks facing the railroad faced the railroad right-of-way, and opened onto it. In 1886, the owners of the north half of these blocks deeded fifty feet off the south end of their lots to the city. The Union Pacific Railroad then deeded fifty feet of its right-of-way adjoining these lots to the respective owners, and the business establishments moved their buildings fifty feet to the north and began opening them to the south.

The owners of the south half of these blocks deeded eight feet off the north end of their lots to the city, making a seventy-four foot street which is, in 1981, Highway 30, and the main street of Central City.

September 30, 1913, the Lincoln Memorial Highway was to be located along the Platte Valley. When finished it was to be solid concrete. Each county was to aid in the work.

The July 17, 1914, **The Grand Island Independent** carried the following item: "Walter Cummings showed his patriotism and public spirit today by purchasing the necessary paint and brushes, outfitting an automobile and taking a trip along the river road in Merrick County, which he will label with the insignia of the Lincoln Highway. While the route through Hall County has been thoroughly marked, the river road in Merrick County has not received attention. Mr. Cummings proposed to see that there will be no error made by tourists along this strip of the highway. The next day after the road boosters from this city put up the Lincoln Highway marks between Harmony Hall and Chapman, representatives from Central City made the same trip and gave the marks a coat of black, as per instruction of a Dr. Glatfelder. Farmers along the line favor the highway marks, and strongly criticize the action of the Central City doctor. Without these marks, the farmers, say, they are constantly annoyed, often during the night, by tourists who have lost their way, and who arouse them to make inquiries."

This Lincoln Highway, as it was called, was indeed the first cross-continental road for autos from San Francisco to New York, and a huge barn in the Kearney area was considered the half-way mark. It had 1744 painted on it and designated 1744 miles to San Francisco or to New York. Traffic became very heavy and in the late 1960s, a parallel route was built, namely I-80, which relieved much of the heavy traffic, and many stop signs for travelers. Interstate 80 did not touch Merrick County, as it stayed south of the Platte River, but the old standby, Lincoln Highway, later designated as U.S. 30, still serves us well and traverses about forty-five miles of Merrick County. *From manuscripts by Donald Sampson and Orville Nichols.*

HOME EXTENSION PROGRAM

"Home Demonstration" work began in Merrick County in 1925, with two study clubs, the "Friendly Club" of Chapman and "Fairview Homemakers". Lessons were mailed monthly from the Lincoln Co-operative Extension office. R.E. Stewart was hired as part-time Extension Agent in 1935. Other County Agents have been: Stanley Whitson (1943-52), Calvin Lepp (1952-59), Wayne Burbank (1960-73), Bryan Mariska (1974), Jess Asher (1974-75), Frank Morse (1975-76), and Darrel Siekman (1976-present time).

In 1936, a national organizational meeting was held in Washington, D.C. Following this, fourteen clubs were formed in Merrick County. Mrs. Paul Deichmann was elected the first County Chairman in 1937. Dues were 3¢ per member per year. In 1947, Merrick County clubs drafted a constitution and joined the State Council. In the 1950's, the dream of a 4-H Building was realized.

Charlan Graff served as the first Home Agent (1954-61). Others have been: Darlene Wissing (1961-62), Helen Solt (1963-72), Jane Bierman (1972-76), Mary McHargue (1976-79), and our present agent, Nancy Biehl.

Highlights of Merrick County Home Extension have included: County Tours begun in 1954 and continued yearly; Spring Scholarship Tea from 1955 on; State Convention attendance since 1956; the annual Tasting Tea begun in 1961; the County Chorus' singing for State Convention and KHAS-TV in 1963; and Council Cookbooks printed in 1970 and 1979.

Five of the original clubs are still active. Four members have served on the State Board: Vera Schlondorf, Dorothy Hull, Lenora Schuette, and Alice Brandes. There still exists a direct link with Nebraska University for learning materials and organizational ties. *Submitted by Faye Manning*

MERRICK COUNTY FAIR

The Merrick County Agricultural and Fair Association had its beginnings in 1874. The following paragraph is a quotation from the Merrick County section of a book, **History of Nebraska,** published by Western Historical Company of Chicago in 1882, and available at the Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska:

"An organization was effected April 8, 1874, with Horace Allen, president, H.C. Osterhout, vice-pres., N.R. Persinger, secretary, and James Vieregg, treasurer. Eighty acres of land for a fair ground were purchased, but in 1876, twenty acres were sold for a cemetery. A floral hall in the shape of a Maltese cross has been erected and other improvements made. The exhibition grounds are situated one and one-half mile miles north of Central City. The present members of the Society are twenty, with officers as follows: president, S.L. Wiser, vice-president, Robert Campbell, treasurer Isaac Traver. The Merrick County Agricultural Society, although young in years, is destined to play its part in the material development of this section."

The fairgrounds described above were the first of four different locations. The second, according to an 1899 Merrick County plat book (map on page 20) was at the intersection of Washburn and 13th Streets, 3 blocks north of Ormsby Road, at the northwest edge of Central City.

It is not known whether or not the fair was inactive for a period of time, but the next mention of it was of 3-day expositions in the Clarks area, beginning in 1907. The site was a cottonwood grove in the southwest corner of the section north of Clarks, on property belonging to William Gantz. Livestock was tied under nature's roof, and transported to the lumberyard scales for weighing. Some exhibits were housed in tents and others at the opera house in town. Families came from near and far, some camping there for two or three days. In addition to judging of exhibits, a popular entertainment was impromptu horse-racing on Mr. Chamberlain's sulky track across the road to the south.

Early-day admission tickets were $1.50 for a season ticket, 35¢ adult single admission, and 15¢ children's single admission — except for Children's Day, when all under 12 were admitted free.

The present fairground site, west of Central City, was purchased about 1926-27, and permanent buildings were erected. The elder George Hedges, a long-time fairboard member and patron of the exposition, provided funds on several occasions to operate the fair.

The first 4-H Club exhibits at Merrick County Fairs were in 1914. There was a fine concrete block 4-H Building erected in 1953, and it has become a year-around center for community activities.

The fairboard has secured Ak-Sar-Ben grants for matching funds to erect or update several buildings. A quonset was built west of the grandstand in 1966, for housing commercial exhibits. In 1976, a large steel building was constructed east of the grandstand. It was used, and later purchased, by the local



"4-H youth exhibitors"

Historical Museum. The museum, instead of paying cash, erected an identical building north of the livestock area for fair exhibits.

In 1977, a concrete block food-service building and public restrooms were a welcome improvement over the old church food stand crowded in the dingy recesses under the grandstand.

In 1980, benefactors, Alfred and Elizabeth Bader, funded a large steel building for the open-class exhibits. The west wing of the old building was retained for church school exhibits which had formerly been housed in the school art building.

Expansion of livestock exhibits necessitated the latest change — razing two old livestock buildings and erecting an open-sided 200′ by 76′ structure in 1981 for beef, dairy, and sheep exhibits, and a center show arena.

Fine rodeo facilities complete the structures on the fairgrounds. Several horse shows and rodeos are held each year, and can be enjoyed in the original grandstand, which has stood the test of time and the tornado of 1974.

Administration of Merrick County Fair Association is now by directors elected from each township, and many citizens have participated in this responsibility through the years. As we try to maintain the "down home" educational and recreational opportunities, we can sense the joy that has permeated fair activities from pioneer days until the present time.

"Heigh-ho! Come to the Fair!" *Compiled from information gathered by Marilyn Wilson and Paula Haynes Bosselman*

THE NEBRASKA PIONEER FARM AWARD

Special events happen when a family in Merrick County reaches the requirements for the Nebraska Pioneer Farm Award. They receive a plaque from the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers, presented at the Merrick County Fair in a special ceremony. They also receive a plaque from the Knights of AK-SAR-BEN at a banquet in their honor held in September in Omaha at AK-SAR-BEN. The award reads:



NEBRASKA PIONEER FARM AWARD

The Knights of Ak-sar-ben are honored to recognize the

————Farm

for long and meritorious service to agriculture, a exemplifeid by continued ownership within the family of the same Nebraska farm for 100 years or more. Nebraska has been enriched by the courageous pioneer spirit and loyalty to the land exhibited by members of this family, down through the years.

KNIGHTS OF AK-SAR-BEN
Omaha, Nebraska

Beginning in 1970, the following Merrick County residents have been honored for the property shown:

1970 — Arnold and Hildur Willhoft/Joseph Phelps Homestead.

1971 — Darwin and Lorraine Williams/John Lumadue Homestead, William Shoemaker and Sarah Martin/William Shoemaker Homestead, Arnold (Jack) and Gladys Klingenberg/Hans Klingenberg Homestead, and Ruth Fish/John Beck Homestead.

1971 — Pat and Marion Ryan/Thomas Willeman Homestead.

1972 — Raymond Wiegert/John Wiegert Farm, Robert Baird/R.G. Baird Homestead, James and Maxine Kyes/John Kyes Farm, and Marion Marsh/Marsh Farm.

1974 — Otto B. Zamzow/Frank Zamzow Homestead and Donald Y. Clark/D.Y. Clark Farm.

1975 — Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Frauen/Frauen Homestead, Georgia and Don Gray/Stuart, Farm, Barbara Morgan, Tom and Nona/T.G. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Dammann/Dammann Homestead, and Barbara and Loren Ogden/Laub Homestead.

1976 — Helen Johnson/Geottsche Johnson Homestead, Harry Tague/Tague Farm, Mrs. Leroy Newlon/Robert Adams Homestead, Elizabeth Mason/Fauquier Homestead, Laurel Haddix/Cyrus Kellog Homestead, John D. Place/Place Timberclaim, Marion White/Winkelman Farmstead, William Rudolf/Muchow-Rudolf Farm, Jasper Rice/Dorr-Rice Farm, Charles Benner/Benner Homestead, Lloyd Nitzel/Christina Nitzel Farm, Vern Hilton/Hilton Homestead, Warren Hudnall/Hudnall Homestead, Bruce Aurand/Aurand Homestead, and Stella Glause/Wagner Farm.

1977 — Florence Snider/Gilbert Timberclaim and Lisle Ferris/George Ferris Homestead.

1978 — Peter Johnson/H.P. Johnson Farm, Hans Holtorf/Claus F. Holtorf Homestead, Ordella Ruff/John Schinkel Homestead, Norman and Charles Bosselman/Carsten Bosselman Farm, Edgar Windfield/Casper Seim Homestead, Ivan Nelson/John Nelson Farm (1) and Vern Nelson/John Nelson Farm (2).

1979 — Gerald and Eleanor Mattson/Tom Mattson Farm and Charles and Esther VanPelt/Jefferson VanPelt Homestead.

1980 — Marilyn and Edger Djernes/August Retzlaff Homestead, Thomas Klar Shively/T.A. Shively Homestead, Harold and Evelyn Bader/John Bader Homestead, Arthur Luebbe/Dolph Will Homestead, and Frieda Schipman/Herman Schipman Homestead.

1981 — Frieda Simonson and Armin Wagner/Soloman Wagner Farm, Meta Key Estate/Thomas Key Farm, Florence Niedfelt and Louis Kruse/Fritz Kruse Homestead, Arnold Von Aschwege/Von Aschwege Farm, and Victor Nicholas/Alexander Nicholas Farm. *Edited by Paula Haynes Bosselman*

U.S. BICENTENNIAL IN MERRICK COUNTY

Merrick County's celebration of the nation's 200th birthday was similar to that in most rural areas of the United States. We had our share of programs and festivities.

One of the more lasting events of the year was the placing of permanent signs marking historic places in the county. During 1976, a committee headed by L.L. Haddix put up historic signs at these sites:



Sign near site of Brewer's Mill

District #1 School, the first district organized in the county
Vieregg Homestead site, the first homestead, filed in 1859
Shoemakers Point, the first post office in Merrick County
John Martin Homestead, Mrs. Martin was the only doctor between Columbus and Kearney
Lone Tree
Jason Parker Homestead, first man to bring family to county
Brewers Mill and mill race sites, near the Mattson farm
Metcalf Mill site, on the present Don Gray farm

In addition, the Clarks Bicentennial Committee marked these significant spots: a marker on a county road one-half mile west of the Hartwell Trading Post site indicating the Hartwell site, a marker on the Hartwell site itself, and a stone marker on the Tague farm adjacent to the public road, showing remnants of the Mormon Trail.

On April 11, 1976, a program of patriotic music was presented by the Lone Tree Singers, under the direction fo Gerald Hatt. On the Fourth of July, a county-wide old-fashioned picnic was held at Riverside Park, near Central City.

Each town in the county qualified to receive a Bicentennial flag. These presentations were properly noted with programs. Congresswoman Virginia Smith made the flag presentations at three of these events. In additional, all towns had their own celebrations of a patriotic nature at some during this important year.

One significant county event was the "Old-timers Banquet" on March 16th. More than 400 people relived memories of a bygone era in the songs of Roger Welsch and the tales of early settlers recalled by Ted Reeves. There was also a recognition of some fifty persons whose families have been in possession of their farms for 100 or more years.



Bicentennial Wagon Train near Lone Tree Monument

April 22, upwards of a thousand people were on hand to greet the Bicentennial Wagon Train as it arrived. Central City was host to the train on its overnight stay here, following a program at the fairgrounds. Merrick County was honored and proud to have George Hedges as driver of the official Nebraska Conestoga Wagon. Mr. Hedges accompanied the wagon train to where the cross-country trek ended at Valley Forge.

Submitted by Reeves





George Hedges with his team and Conestoga Wagon

AGRICULTURE

Most settlers in the late 1850s, and for three decades thereafter, owned very little personal property. The sum total of their wealth included a span of oxen, a team of horses, or a team of mules; their wagon; perhaps an oakbeam plow; a few hand tools; and some meager furniture.

As late as 1910, most farm families enjoyed a comfortable standard of living on 160 acre farms. Some families were living on eighty acre units. Horses generally provided the motive power for farming and local transportation.

Water of good quality was available to the early covered wagon traffic. The Platte River next to the wagon trail proved a friendly ally. Underground water was available in many areas of the county at from fifteen to twenty-five feet depths. Our ground water is one of the county's principle resources. Most irrigation wells yield from 400 to 1200 gallons per minute at this date. Many overhead sprinkler systems, called center pivots, have been installed these past few years. There is some economy in the use of the system, both in volume of water used and total labor required. Some dry-land farming exists even in 1981. The three primary ways of irrigating crops are ditch and tube, gated pipe, and center pivot.

A near-collapse of the nation's economy in late 1929, and the serious drought and depression of the 1930s, were events that required many farm families to seek other methods to provide a living. The drought did much to hasten the introduction of pump irrigation to insure crop development during the growing season.

The lowest elevation in the county is east of Silver Creek, at about 1500′ above sea level. The elevation at Central City is 1700′. Natural drainage is to the northeast at approximately seven feet per mile. Roughly ninety-five per cent of the fields irrigated by the gravity system are irrigated to the north or east.

In the past fifteen years, the number of farms has declined from 1300 to approximately 800 in the county in 1981. In 1969, there were about 87,500 acres under irrigation. In 1981, that figure has risen to 180,000 acres. In 1969, records show 2416 irrigation wells in use. In 1981, there are 3500 wells registered. The Chamber of Commerce has posted a sign at the western entrance of Central City proclaiming it the "Irrigation Center of the World."

Corn is the principal crop grown in Merrick County. The acreage planted to corn had expanded from 99,900 acres in 1969, to 163,000 acres in 1981. Yields of 150 bushels per acre are quite common. Four- through sixteen-row equipment is used to plant and cultivate the crop. A farmer in 1981 using six-row equipment, behind a 100 horsepower tractor that burns 7-8 gallons of diesel fuel an hour, can plant around a hundred acres of corn on a long April day. Contrast that with an account of Charles Bosselman as a young man working thirty days in succession with a one bottom walking plow that turned up a 14″ swath behind a horse — he plowed up eighty acres in that manner in the late 1800s.

Other crops raised in the county include small grains, popcorn for a commercial market, milo, soybeans, alfalfa and sweet clover, prairie hay and many others. Sunflowers now appear as a cultivated crop, but for many years the farmers tried desperately to rid themselves of this "weed" in their cornfields.

Farmers must be knowledgable in the use and application of commercial fertilizers. Insecticides and herbicides are in common use to control insects and weeds. Aerial application of all chemicals is common. It is not unusual to spend $100 per acre for chemicals and fertilizer on corn ground today. A entire industry exists in the county to supply the agricultural chemical needs of the farmers.

Harvesting of the crops has also undergone drastic change. First picked by hand, corn was commonly being harvested with one or two row corn pickers as late as the early 1960s. Still on the ear when it came from the field, it was stored in cribs. Today's harvesting is virtually all done with a combine, a self-propelled power unit that accomodates different harvesting heads to harvest any given type of crop.

Corn is commonly stored on the farm in steel bins or buildings equipped with aeration units. Hay for feed is generally cut with a windrower, and stacked in the field, baled in sixty to seventy pound conventional bales, made into large one-half to one-ton round bales or three to five ton mechanically built stacks. Sileage is any feed crop that is cut green, mixed together, and stored for later use. It is often stored in large open pits or bunkers, as well as the large blue Harvestores, which are upright, airtight silos.



Cutting grain on Clauff farm — about 1920



Threshing machine at Hord Ranch



Unloading ear corn — about 1960



Sod house built by Wm. McCloud in 1879. 12′ × 36′ — one room partitioned with curtains. Roof was of boards covered with shingles.

Merrick County is the home of several large commercial cattle feeding operations. Cattle are grain-fed in preparation for the slaughter market. There are several commercial dairy herds as well as cow-calf operations. Many farmers have quit milking in the last few years.

Lots of hogs are being raised today, mostly in confinement, and sheep are making a comeback as meat animals.



"Cattle grazing in lush prairie pasture."



Merrick County Museum — on E Street, Central City



Center Pivot irrigation — 1981



"Ready to combine corn — 1976"



Stakhand — makes five ton "loaves" of forage.

The demand for farm land is very strong as this review is being written. Sales of land range from $500 to $2500 per acre, with the higher prices probably indicating adequate irrigation facilities.

Most of Merrick County's crops are marketed through local elevators, and shipped by rail to the west coast for overseas consumption. Trains of twenty-five to seventy-five car units were provided by railroads operating through the county to local elevators and grain terminals.

The extreme heat of 1980 growing season foreclosed that years crop production being one of the county's banner years. The years 1975 through 1979, however, were seasons of high per-acre yield in Merrick County. The 1910 to 1915 farm may have planted 40-100 acres of corn. By 1975, a few single operators were planting more than 1200 acres per unit. Today, some families working together as a unit may plant as many as 2000 acres to corn.

Agriculture is truely the industry that provides "The Good Life" for Merrick County citizens. *Edited by Paula Haynes Bosselman from manuscripts by Ted C. Reeves*

MERRICK COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

As far back as 1932, meetings were being held to consider the preservation of Merrick County History. Dr. Fred Fouts, Mrs. O.T. Bishop, Nettie Jewell, Ida Wilhoft and Joe Hayes were active in the earliest organization. Clara Wilder Everett should be given credit for actively preserving artifacts which were collected at that time.

The relics were successively housed at the Court house, the McConnell building, the Glatfelter building, library and fairgrounds. In 1962, the first relatively permanent site was located when the District #51 school house was purchased by Clara Everett and Walter O'Nele and moved to the Fairgrounds.

The organization of the present museum began in 1967, when it was entered as a non-profit organization under Nebraska laws, with the goal of preserving the cultural and economic heritage of Merrick County.

With the purchase of the historic Traver home on old Front Street in 1968, the museum began a new chapter in its history. Numerous clubs and individuals took on the monumental task of completely restoring the building. The rooms were furnished, as nearly as possible, with period furniture of the late 1890s. A schoolroom, chapel, library, sewing room, and bedroom are now on display on the upper floors. The main floor displays consist of numerous pieces of old furniture, plus a partially complete file of county newspapers.

A few years later, all furnishings of the former Chapman Barber Shop were donated to the museum. Cahow's 1910 barber shop is pictured in Wright Morris's book "God's Country and My People".

The old city fire bell, long nearly-buried in the Union Pacific right of way, was restored and placed in a suitable structure on the lawn of the museum. The bell and tower are dedicated to Clara and Will Everett.

The items and equipment on display at the various museum locations have been donated outright or are on loan from area residents interested in the growth and expansion of the museum collection.

Present buildings owned by the museum include the Traver Mansion, a steel building on the fair grounds (50x100′ with 14′ side walls), and the school house. The quantity and quality of the exhibits and artifacts continue to climb.

The present officers of of the museum include T.C. Reeves, chairman; Orville Nicholas, vice-chairman; Henry Schutz, secretary; and Arvid Stranberg, treasurer. The board of directors includes Alfred Bader, Ronald Glasser, and Marvin Garrett, and Clara Wilder Everett as an honorary director.

When a Merrick County History Book was being considered, a sponsoring body was needed. Consistent with the goals of the organization, and after careful consideration, the project of preserving Merrick County's history for future generations was undertaken on June 3, 1980.

The museum is pleased to accept exhibits that contribute to the preservation of the county's historic past. *Submitted by Portia Reeves*

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR YEARS IN MERRICK COUNTY

1857. James Buchanon is President of the United States. The Pawnee Reservation is established in Nebraska.

1858. Lone Tree Station on the Western Stage Lines is the first permanent building in Merrick County, which is established by Territorial Legislature.

1859. James Vieregg establishes the first white settlement in Merrick County.

1861. Shoemaker's Point post office opens.

1862. Homestead Act (160 acres free) passes Congress.

1864. First county-wide election is held — 27 registered voters. Brewer's Ranch gets Shoemaker's Point post office.

1865. C.B. Hartwell locates a ranch (Junction Ranch) a short distance from Clarks. First marriage ceremony performed in county — between John Kyes and Viola Parker. The Lone Tree is dead. P.S. Reed is sheriff of the county.

1866. Lone Tree, Clarksville, Chapman, and Silver Creek are platted by the Union Pacific which has just laid track into the county. District #1 log school house is erected, and the first teacher is paid $33.00 for the year.

1867. Clarksville lacks one vote of becoming the state capitol of Nebraska. Silver Creek post office opens.

1868. John Berryman builds first permanent building in Lone Tree Town. Chapman post office opens.

1869. Brewer's Ranch post office combines with Lone Tree for Lone Tree's first post office. The Clarksville post office also opens. The first Methodist Class of Clarksville organizes.

1870. Traver and May open a lumber yard. Clarksville becomes, simply, Clarks. Silver Glen post office opens. Dr. J.B. Whittaker joins Drs. Fisher, Doolittle, and Gilmont in practicing medicine in Merrick County.

1871. Clarks School District #11 organized.

1872. The first newspaper in the county, the Merrick County News, begins publication. J.J. Brewer constructs a grist mill west of Lone Tree.

1873. The Timber Culture Act (160 acres, 40 acres of trees) passed by Congress. First Division Temperance organized. Lone Tree parish builds the First Presbyterian Church. Legislative action took 180 square miles of Merrick County for Pawnee Indian Reservation.

1874. First Merrick County Fair held. Grasshopper plagues destroy crops. First Central City newspaper changes its name to Lone Tree Courier. Lockwood post office opens. Richards, Wilson and Shively construct a grist mill.

1875. Population of Central City is 4-500. Lone Tree becomes Central City, thirty voters make up the petition. Prairie Creek and Farmersville post offices open.

1876. Two-room school is located on the corner of C Ave. and D St.

1877. First M.E. and Catholic churches constructed.

1878. Central City's population reaches 900. The Silver Glen grist mill is constructed.

1879. Pawnee Reservation is made into Nance County. Bethel, Mentzer, and Bryant's Grove post offices open. First Methodist Church of Clark erects new building.

1880. Burlington Railroad comes to Central City. A saloon is blown up during a Temperance Union meeting. Prairie Creek and Bryant's Grove post offices close. Lester-Merrick post office opens.

1881. Conrad post office opens, Farmersville's closes.

1882. Central City newspaper now called Nonpariel. J.S. Gregory is proprietor of first class hotel in the heart of Central City, the Central City House. The Conrad post office closes, and Glade and Schaupp construct a grist mill.

1883. Boom years for Central City have come. Academy of Music, the steam mill, the Newton Hotel, several new newspapers, the cracker factory, and a new Methodist Church opened their doors. The post office opens at Vick and Bethel's closes.

1884. Central City has three brick buildings: Tooley's Drugs, Parson's Store, and the Central City National Bank. The school house burns down, located where Vernon Sawyers now lives. The first city library is established by Vieregg, Holden, Letcher, Traver, Patterson, Hays, and others. Gardiner Station post office is activated then moved to Platte County. The Traver home is built on the north side of the tracks in Central City and looks across them to the lumber yard owned by the family.

1885. Construction of new brick high school building is started. Nebraska Central College is a Methodist College. Adamston gets a post office.

1886. First graduates from Central City High School — eleven grades only. Union block on the north side of Broad Street houses the Opera House, Newton Hotel, and the Academy of Music. Vieregg has built a steam flour mill in the west part of Central City. The band stand has been moved to North Park to make room for a fountain. Central City has created a new front street by turning the entrances of its buildings to the south: the business district originally faced north towards the railroad tracks. A population of 1,000 was reached by Central City. Mentzer and Adamston post offices closed.

1887. A gentleman of color, hailing from Aurora, has opened a saloon in Central City. The village of Archer is established and its post office opens. The Farmer's State Bank is organized. Burlington Railroad constructs a line to Palmer, whose village name has been Vick. Central City votes $20,000 to install a city water system, and a $10,000 bond issue to help with the construction of a Platte River Bridge.

1888. Great blizzard hits the county. John McLean and Thomas Tague settle near Clarks. Amity post office closes.

1890. Nebraska Central College closes. Central City has oil lamps — they are lighted each evening by Night Watch, and are cleaned and refilled in the morning. Lockwood post office closes.

1891. Flood washes Burlington and Union Pacific tracks out.

1892. Central City has four newspapers: the Courier, the Republican, the Nonpariel, and the Independent Press. Platte Valley Bank is organized. A Municipal Improvement Association is formed; they acquire thirty gasoline lamp posts. The sanitary district begins.

1894. Round trip from Central City to Salt Lake is $20.00 on the train. Good dress gingham costs 5¢ a yard.

1895. Baker Livery Stable offers new rigs and fresh horses, and is located one block south of the Newton Hotel. Twenty-two pounds of sugar sells for $1.00. The population of Central City is 12-1500. The Merrick County Agricultural Society Fair is held September 24-27.

1897. Grade Twelve is added to the school program. Worms post office opens.

1898. A telephone franchise is granted for the area.

1899. Central City Democrat (newspaper) advertises men's shoes for $2.48. College is re-opened, sponsored by Friends. Sunrise post office opens.

1900. Assessed valuation of Central City is $176,390.

1901. Worms post office closes.

1902. Fountain is placed in triangle downtown.

1903. Central City Commercial Club organizes with twenty-five members.

1904. The Kinkaid Act passes Congress — 640 acres in western Nebraska.

1905. Central City starts Volunteer Fire Department.

1906. First automobile in town is purchased by Mr. Scott. Sunrise post office closes.

1909. The Merrick County Fair was being held during these years at the William Gantz Grove near Clarks.

1911. Corn selling for 56¢ per bushel. A bond issue passed for construction of a new Merrick County Courthouse.

1912. Post office department orders free mail delivery in the city. The corner stone is laid for the new court house.

1914. Presbyterian congregation builds a new church. Junior high school building is erected.

1915. Hords constructed Lucile block, now Redman's Store, Gambles Store, and Riley Insurance Building.

1919. Amendment 19 is passed, women are now eligible to vote. The first ice plant begins operation in Central City. Havens post office opens.

1920. Forty-one constitutional amendments are added to the Nebraska Constitution.

1921. Corn sells for 34¢ per bushel.

1924. Nearly one hundred banks close across the state.

1925. Home extension work comes to Merrick County.

1927. The Post Office and today's South Ward School are constructed.

1928. The Library is constructed, completion will be in 1929.

1929. Nationwide depression — run on banks. **London Times** calls Nebraska's Capitol "One of America's great works of art!"

1930. Wilder Cafe's gas bill runs $18.60. If you bring your pail, $1.00 buys 25 pounds of sauerkraut.

1932. Corn sells for 13¢ per bushel.

1933. Fire Department orders a new Laverne fire truck.

1934. Central City taxpayers demand that the waste of Public Spending cease. Record number of voters in Merrick County Lone Tree township — 529. August 9, "Old Settler's Day"held in North Park draws 1000 persons. State Theatre offers a double feature for 15¢. Merrick County Historical Society plants a cottonwood at the site of original Lone Tree.

1935. Candyland and the Wilder Cafe are the "in" spots. The Republican River floods and one hundred people die in seventy-two hours. Havens post office closes.

1936. Present Coast to Coast building is constructed.

1937. Triangle is rebuilt.

1941. The fountain downtown and the Presbyterian Church bell are donated to the iron drive (war effort.)

1945. T.B. Hord donates the property on Highway 30 for a new hospital, both the home and the grounds. (Merrick Manor stands on that spot in 1981). The city is flooded to the railroad tracks from the north.

1946. Several hundred residents sign rolls in favor of new auditorium construction, and a vote shows the auditorium proposal wins four to one. Police under Mayor Schneiderheinz will have a two man force in uniform when the cloth is available. The Central City Nonpariel has a colored comics section. Central City Bisonmen meet Aurora in Rosewild Gym.

1947. The Larson Building and Middle School gym are constructed. Clarks Methodist Church destroyed by fire.

1949. City builds a disposal plant. Legislature passes an act for the reorganization of school districts within counties. The worst blizzard since 1888 hits — six die. New Clarks Methodist Church completed.

1950. City has its own gas plant, and builds the sewage plant.

1953. Construction started on 4-H Building at Merrick County Fair Grounds.

1955. Jensen Hatchery Building constructed.

1956. City builds swimming pool. Vote passes by two votes, and pool costs $35,000.

1957. Masonic Building is constructed.

1958. Merrick County celebrated Centennial.

1959. Nebraska gets first twelve miles of Interstate 80 completed. Litzenberg Memorial Hospital begins construction.

1960. The telephone building is constructed. Merrick Foundation is formed.

1963. Parkview Home is constructed. Channel 13 television is receivable in Central City.

1965. Merrick Manor is constructed.

1966. Central City Municipal Airport is dedicated. St. Michal's Church is constructed. A March blizzard takes twenty-one Nebraska lives.

1967. Nebraska celebrates its centennial. Floods in June force many farm and village residents to evacuate along Prairie Creek and other waterways.

1968. Schools reorganize once again. District #8 school house burns. The new High School is constructed. The United Methodist congregation builds a new church in Central City.

1969. Central City fire losses amount to $37,840. Merrick County Historical Museum purchased Traver House for museum.

1970. Central City census shows population of 2,803. Fire loss of $4850.

1974. New City Water Tower is constructed.

1975. Larson Chevrolet relocated at west end of city past Nite and Day Cafe, and puts up steel building for dealership. Author Wright Morris, Central City native, visits Junior High children. Fire destroys one block near triangle, one life lost.

1976. Merrick County has many celebrations honoring America's Bicentennial.

1977. Cold Storage plant is razed in Central City. Many heavy rains in Clarks (2") and in Archer (3"). Handicapped-access legislation necessitates new steps and entrance for the Merrick County Courthouse.

1978. The American Agriculture Movement opens a strike office in Central City. Mini-bus begins daily pickup in Central City. Havens Bridge has one pier swept away by ice jam in March.

1979. Money market certificates of deposit reach 9.80% in January. Merrick County Museum is extensively damaged by fire. Central City Council approves cable television franchise. "Meals on Wheels" provides noon meals for senior citizens who are shut-ins.

1980. June 3 — first meeting of Merrick County History Book Committee and Grand Island tornado that kills five persons. New bridge is constructed at Havens.

1981. Population of county is 8,890. 180,000 acres are under irrigated cultivation. Assessed valuation of city is $13,783,320. Average annual rain is 23.41", snow 28.5". *Compiled and edited by Phoebe McCullough and Paula Haynes Bosselman*



Historic Central City Cemetery

CEMETERIES

Numerous spots in Merrick County have been set aside as burial grounds. In the pioneer days, it was common for families to have plots on their own farms. Some of these still exist, corners overgrown with tall grasses and perhaps some flowers planted long ago. Most, however, are gone now and the graves moved to a cemetery. Stories of the existing cemeteries and some former ones are included in this anthology. Some cemeteries go by more than one name: names are listed alphabetically. The following guide will be of assistance in locating the stories of the cemeteries:

Archer Evangelical Community Cemetery — Prairie Creek Township
Bureau Cemetery — Clarksville Township (1)
Burke Cemetery — Lone Tree Township
Calvery Cemetery — Clarksville Township (4)
Central City Cemetery — Lone Tree Township (3)
Chapman Cemetery — Chapman Township
Clarks Cemetery — Clarksville Township
Fairview Cemetery — Clarksville Township
German Methodist Episcopal Cemetery — Prairie Creek Township
Holden Cemetery — Lone Tree Township (3)
Laurel Cemetery — Vieregg Township
Merrick County Cemetery — Lone Tree Township (3)
Pierce Chapel Cemetery — Clarksville Township (1)
Pleasant Hill Cemetery — Clarksville Township (1)
Prairie Creek Baptist Cemetery — Prairie Creek Township (2)
Rose Hill Cemetery — Loup Township
Silver Creek Cemetery — Silver Creek Township
St. Lawrence Cemetery — Silver Creek Township
St. Peter's Cemetery — Clarksville Township (4)
Woodpecker Cemetery — Prairie Creek Township (2)
Zion Evangical Lutheran Cemetery — Prairie Creek Township

Nearby cemeteries in which numerous Merrick County residents were buried, include Wiegert Cemetery, across the Hall County line listed in Vieregg Township, and the Norwegian Cemetery across the Howard County line but listed in Prairie Creek Township. *Compiled by Raymona Grigsby and edited by Ellen Campbell*



Burke School — District #18

MERRICK COUNTY SCHOOLS

One-room schools, those important community centers of the past, have nearly faded from existence. In 1981, there were only three remaining in Merrick County. The others are but a bright memory in the minds of all who ever attended them as students or taught in them. This book contains stories of many Merrick County schools. These are included in the various township histories. For ease in finding them, the following index may be used:

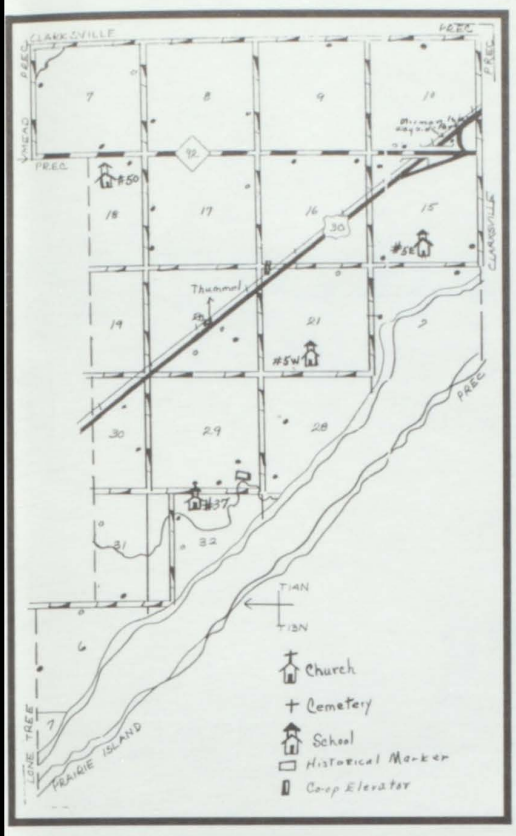
District	
1	Vieregg
2	(North and South) Chapman/Vieregg
3	Chapman
4	Central City/Mead
5	Central
6	Silver Creek
7	Clarks
8	Lone Tree
9	Chapman
10	Silver Creek
11	Clarks
12	Lone Tree
13	Lone Tree
14	Midland
15	Clarks
16	Clarks
17	Vieregg
18	Mead
19	Mead
20	Lone Tree
21	Mead
22	Prairie Island
23	Midland/Mead
24	Midland
25	Clarks
26	Chapman/Prairie Creek
27	Lone Tree
28	Chapman/Prairie Creek
29	Chapman/Vieregg
30	Prairie Island
31	Loup/Mead
32	Chapman/Vieregg
33	Mead
34	Clarks/Loup
35	Prairie Creek
36	Loup
37	Central
38	Chapman
39	Chapman
40	Silver Creek
41	Loup
42	Chapman/Prairie Creek/Vieregg
43	Midland
44	Prairie Creek
45	Vieregg/Prairie Creek
46	Midland
47	Loup
48	Lone Tree
49	Palmer
50	Central
51	Mead
52	Loup
53	Loup (Strip)
54	Clarksville (with Nance County)
55	Clarks
56	Lone Tree
57	Mead
58	Loup
59	Mead (joined with Nance County #55)
60	Loup (Strip)
63	Loup

Following is a list of Merrick County Superintendents of Schools, from 1868 through 1981:

Ed Parker	1868-1870
Charles Mead	1871-1875
John Patterson	1876-1882
B.W. Baker	1883-1887
J.C. Martin	1888-1889
George Ayres	1890-1894
Fred Marsh	1895-1898
Anson Holmes	1899-1903
Fred Marsh	1904-1908
Miss Frances Kelly	1909-1912
Margaret McCutcheson	1913-1922
Pearl Simmons	1923-1936
Margaret Turnbull	1937-1944
Mary Hruza	1945-1948
Clair Dixon	1949-1958
Emil Friesen	1959-1970
Marvin W. Shreve	1971-1975
Gerald G. Carnes	1975-

Compiled by Ellen Campbell

Central Township



Central Township, located in central Merrick County, is bounded by Clarksville Township on the east and north, Mead and Lone Tree on the west, with the Platte River running northeast along its south side. It is bisected by the Union Pacific Railroad and Highway 30. Highway 92 runs across its north side.

Central Township had its beginnings February 11, 1873, when it was designated as the #9 Voting Precinct in Merrick County. Its first officials were: Dennis Doody and Charles Wilson, justices of the peace; A.T. Everett and W.B. Howe, constables; Wm. A. Powell, assessor; George Powell, Thomas McDermott, and Wm. Brown, election judges; E. Middleton and Wm. Gray, election clerks; and Samuel Williams, road supervisor.

In those days the roads were maintained by the local farmers. The hourly wage scale for 1937 reads: 25¢ to 30¢ for manual labor; 50¢ for men and team; 75¢ for man and four horse team; $1.00 for a ten to twenty horsepower tractor. By 1949 tractor labor had risen to $1.75 an hour and hand hand labor to 75¢. One rural school, District #50, is still in operation in the township. The rest of the children are bussed to Clarks or Central City. District #50 also serves as the polling place.

This area, situated in the Platte River Valley, is blessed with rich soil and plentiful water for irrigation. The people are descendants of the early pioneers, many whose families have been farmers for generations.

The present officers are: Francis McConnell, Treasurer; Dale Hannappel, Chairman; and Gerald Dexter, Secretary. *Submitted by Elvira Dexter, Township Chairman*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #5

In the Spring of 1870, a group of early settlers petitioned the Merrick County government for permission to start a school in an area between the Union Pacific Railroad and the north bank of the Platte River. This was the fifth school in the county and became District #5. It was a school unit until 1959 when the schools of District #5 and #50 merged.

The district extended east and west from south of Clarks to the Warm Slough neighborhood, where Warm Slough joined the Platte River.

Some of the names of families in the 1872 school census were: Frank Jewell, Joseph Gray, Thomas Morgan, Luke and Patrick Lamb, Michael McDermott and Stephen Norton.

When District #37 was organized in the western part of this area, the two school houses were disposed of. A new school was built in 1910. This replaced the old east school which was one mile south of the Clarks overpass on Highway 92 and was located in the corner of a pasture one half mile west of the old site. School was held in this site for nearly fifty years until the merger of the two rural districts, and the school grounds once more became pasture.

Teachers from 1934 on include: Dorothy Baird, Barbara Little Morgan, Dorothy Key, Phoebe Snider, Lela Vincent, Lois Christensen, Mildred McIntire, Alice Anderson Iseli, Vincent Stranberg, Caroline Craig, Abbie Ourada, and Rose Anderson. *Submitted by Ruth Thomas*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #37

The early records of Merrick County Superintendent's office show that on January 30, 1873, the first meeting for the election of director, moderator, and treasurer was to be held at the house of Charles Wilson. The request was entered by Frank Jewell and signed by Chas. E. Mead, County Superintendent of Schools. The first school census of District #37 was on the 31st day of March, 1873, and shows four boys, whose ages were 5-7-7-16, and seven girls whose ages were 6-9-10-10-13-14-15. They were from the families of LeRoy, Brown, Frank Jewell, Robert Black, and S.D. Frazier.

According to the earliest record book in my possession (a School District Treasurer's Account Book), the first entry is on October 25, 1869, when the County Treasurer issued Order No. 1 for $252 to District #37. One of the first teachers was Warren Thomas, who was paid $30.00 for teaching, and A. Fouts $90.00 for teaching. This same book shows that in August, 1896, a new school was built by Isaac Hawn, J.R. Babbit, M.V. Scott, J.B. Traver, Henry Steffy, E.H. Roark, M.L. Hastings, G.R. Reeves, and E. Yarno. The total cost is shown as $598.15.



First day of school, 1957 District #37 Teacher, Mrs. Walters. Mike and Marian Gray, Richard and Karen Gleason, Kathleen Panowicz, Joan Dexter, Bill Stubbe, Charles, Beverly, Mike, Linda and Dennis Reeves.

District #37 consolidated with Central City School District #4 in 1967. The ground was sold back to the landowner at the time, Ed Lusk. The building was also sold and moved north of the Union Pacific tracks on the old Miller-Hasselbach ranch and was used for housing of livestock. *Submitted by Alnetta Reeves*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #50

District #50, located on Highway 92, one mile south and five miles west of Clarks, is one of the few remaining rural schools in Merrick County.

The first building, built in 1901, was replaced in 1913 when many families had bought T.B. Hord land. In 1917, a room was added for high school, which was discontinued in 1926. With the advent of electricity in 1947, the building was modernized. In 1959, District #5 closed and joined #50.

A center for community activities, the building was available for basket suppers, literaries, Farmers Union, township meetings, showers, or parties. For over fifty years, the Platte Valley Union Sunday School held services here. Many summers there was Bible School. Birthday suppers were held periodically. PTA was held from 1948 to 1961. Pupils of the school started the Prairie Schooners 4H Club in 1961, meeting here. It is presently Central Township's voting place.



District #50 — 1937

Early families of board members attending school were Wilson, Sims, Armstrong, Butt, Campbell, Hamilton, Abel, McConnell, Madison, Roumpf, Stromberg, Richards, and Kufeldt. More recent families are Hannappel, Sundberg, Jefferson, Dubas, Osantowski.

Some of the teachers in this district were Rachel Young, Ruby McCollister, Caroline Divine, Sylvia Booth, Marie Booth, Fredrick Henk, Helen Rose, Clara Schultz, Nina Adams, Esther Crites, Goldie Swanson, Melvin Zichek, Anna Baird, Arlyce Wurtz, Alice Gregg, Susie Cowgill, Jeanine Johnston, Lois Vergo, Lois Dittmer, Nancy Stromberg, Rose Anderson, Betty Plumbtree, Dorothy Glasser, and Ilene Good. *Submitted by Josephine McConnell*



Last day of school picnic — 1955. District #50 Vera Brannan and teacher Lois Vergo

"LUCKY LADIES"

The Lucky Ladies Extension Club was organized September 19, 1953, with Mrs. Fred Butt. After the Platte Valley Extension Club which was organized September 8, 1939, with Mrs. Raymond Roumph grew to twenty-two members, they divided in 1952. Members parting from the Platte Valley Club were Ermina Booth, Mrs. Fred Butt, Mrs. Max Butt,

Mrs. Otto Butt, Mrs. Francis Brannan, Mrs. Francis McConnell, Mrs. Bert Myers, Mrs. Merle Page and Mrs. Dale Richards. Adding new members Mrs. Stewart Able, Mrs. Alfred Eckles, Mrs. Lee Houston and Mrs. Francis Johnson made the Lucky Ladies Extension Club. The Always Busy Community Club is the other divided part of the Platte Valley Extension Club.

The Club participated in County Extension activities and many lessons from the Extension Department of the University of Nebraska were used.

Other activities were making favors for the hospital, stands at public sales, a family picnic in June, Christmas dinner, Halloween party, and keeping a scrapbook.

Three members of the club were County Presidents, Mrs. Don Gray in 1964; Mrs. Francis Brannan in 1965 and Mrs. Roger Beck in 1980.

In 1965, Mrs. Joe Ashelford, Mrs. Don Gray, Mrs. Warren Mesner, Mrs. Maude Reeves, Mrs. Nettie Reeves and Mrs. Gerald Dexter, members of the Warm Slough Homemakers, joined the Lucky Ladies Club.

Present members in 1981 are Mrs. Roger Beck, Mrs. Francis Brannan, Mrs. Louis Butt, Mrs. Gerald Dexter, Mrs. Hans Holtorf, Mrs. Francis Johnson, Mrs. Ralph Johnson, Mrs. Edward Lusk, Mrs. Francis McConnell and Mrs. Kenneth Thompson. *Submitted by Mrs. Francis Brannan*

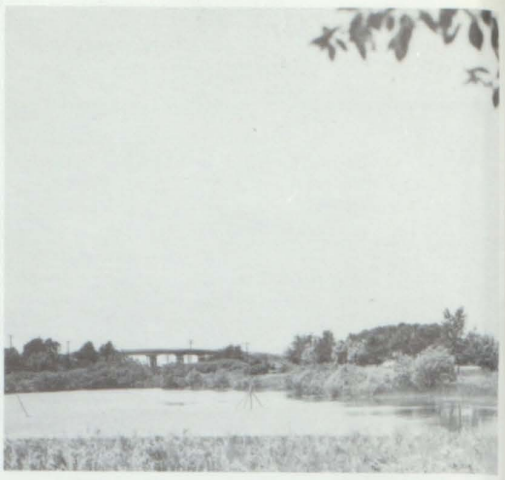
"FIFTY-YEAR CARD PARTY"

Sometime before 1926, the neighbors who live near the mouth of Warm Slough, in what was District #37, began getting together to play "Pitch" in the winter.

Some of the early players were the families of Henry Stubbe, Jim Stuart, Wayne Reeves, M.C. Dexter, Chas. Reeves, Harley Thomas, V.C. Robertson, and Amos Senkbile. As all of the family went to the party and some of the children were marrying, the group outgrew the houses. In the 1940's the group divided in two, forming the younger and older groups.

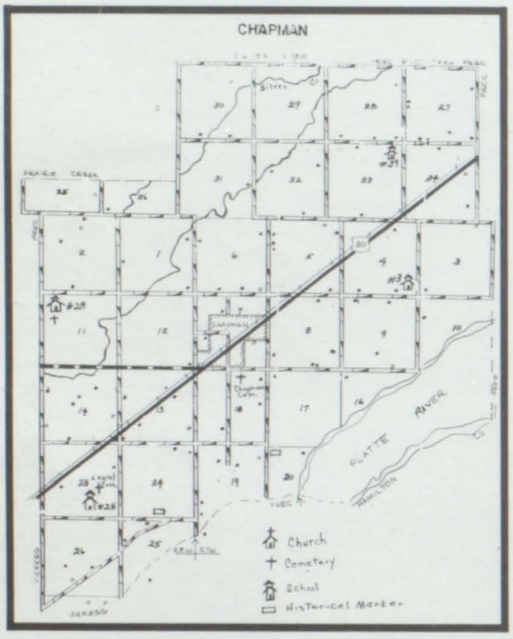
One memorable night, November 18, 1948, the then "older" generation got snowed in at the M.C. Dexter residence and all stayed overnight, being towed home with tractors the next morning.

The younger group, now grown older, still play Pitch every other Saturday night in the winter. The present members are: Mrs. Robert Reeves, Mrs. Robert Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dexter, Mr. and Mrs. Barton Reeves, Mr. and Mrs. Don Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Dexter, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Senkbile, and Mr. and Mrs. Don Swartz. *Submitted by Elvira Dexter*



White Way Park — Now known as Morman Trail Wayside area

Chapman Township



July 7, 1871, the former west precinct of Merrick County (Township 12 North Range 7-8 West) was renamed the Chapman Precinct, and officials were appointed: John Bolden, justice of the peace; Samuel Beavers, constable; Harry Bunker, assessor; Arch Weams, road supervisor; Wm. McAllister, John S. Martin, and John Vieregg, election judges; and Chas. S. Howell and Samuel Beavers, election clerks. The voting place was School District #2. Chapman Precinct was designated as Voting Precinct #4.

The Chapman Township of approximately thirty sections, bounded on the south by the Platte River, is located in the southwestern part of the county. The farmers of this fine Platte Valley area have Chapman as their grain marketing center.

Harry Mattson, President since 1948, Robert Clark, Treasurer, and Virgil Husman, Secretary, are the present officers of the Township Board. Their services include maintenance of township roads (now done by county equipment), removal of fallen trees, supervision of the cemetery, and solving water drainage problems. Through the years the President has also acted as a Justice of the Peace dealing with such problems as renter eviction and couples asking to be married.

Records of 1881 show that A.B. Cady was the Justice of the Peace. He was followed by Cyrus Jacob Klingenberg who handed down a story to his grandson Jack, also a Justice of the Peace at one time, about a couple for whom he performed the marriage ceremony but they forgot to ever pay him the two-dollar fee! *Submitted by Township Chairman, June Vipperman*

CHAPMAN

It is not unreasonable for the citizens of Chapman, Nebraska, to claim the distinction of being possessors of the soil over which the first white men to set foot on the North American continent traveled. In fact they, with a certain degree of confidence, assert that such is the fact. In 1541, Coronado and his band of soldiers crossed the plains of Nebraska, and reported their reaching and crossing the Platte River, named by Coronado as the "Jesus Maria". He then describes the course of travel and makes mention of streams which could be none other than Warm Slough, Silver Creek, and Prairie Creek. These facts indicate that it is quite probable that they crossed over the site of Chapman.

It is well known to the people of Merrick County, that James Vieregg has the distinction of having been the first white settler to locate within the territory that is now Merrick County; however, he preceded by only two hours, two others, as Jesse Shoemaker and Charles Eggerton arrived during the same day. Chapman can lay claim to these distinguished citizens, as "Shoemakers Point" was a tributary to the later station of Chapman.

The history of the village of Chapman dates from 1869, three years after the Union Pacific Railroad had staked out its townsites, approximately eleven miles apart. It was in this year that the first building was erected here — a Union Pacific frame section house located on the north side of the tracks, about a quarter mile west of where the last depot stood. This building served as a section house, depot, post office and store until 1871, when the first business building was erected by Messers L. Reed and C.A. Leake, and occupied by them as a general store. The next store was opened in 1873 by J.I. Walker and sold by him to W.H. Morris in 1877.

Before the first building had been erected, the water tank of the railroad had been used as a post office. Our records give conflicting reports as to who the first Postmaster was, but the conclusion is reached that the first unofficial Postmaster was John Donovan Sr., but when the Post Office was officially set up, Charley Washburn was Postmaster with Dan Donovan as Deputy.

The first family to become official residents of Chapman were the John Donovan family, as Mr. Donovan was the Union Pacific foreman then. Mr. John Donovan Sr. named the town after John Chapman who was the roadmaster from Columbus to Grand Island.

The Union Pacific Railroad platted the original town of Chapman on May 9, 1869, three years after the townsite had been staked out. At this time thousands of Indians roamed the country but were of a peaceful nature and were known as the Pawnee. In 1866 there wasn't a house in Chapman, only the sod section house where the Donovan Family lived. Johanna Donovan (later Mrs. Herman Baese) saw the Indians kill two white men on the river. After that the settlers were protected by soldiers sent by the government.

In 1881, the first newspaper was edited by Dan Dye and was called **The Chapman Journal;** however it and its successors were all short-lived. The business houses at this time consisted of four general stores, a hardware store, a drug store, three grain depots, and a hotel.

In the 1883 the I.O.O.F. was organized, and soon afterwards their building was erected by Fred Peterson, a pioneer carpenter. It stood until a few years ago. In 1894, the Masonic Lodge was constituted.

The two churches have been important through-



Main Street — 1912 looking east

out the years. The First Baptist Church was organized January 26, 1885, with Reverend S.B. Hayes as pastor, and Alonzo Sutton as Clerk. The same year a frame building was erected on the present site. The Methodist Church was established and a building erected in 1888. Both have been remodeled and improved through the years. The Catholics of the Chapman area have been members, for the most part, of St. Michaels Parish in Central City.

During the years the Lincoln Highway went through the Main Street of town, the streets teemed with activity and dust. A favorite pasttime of the young set was to go to the old hotel and meet overnight visitors from "faraway places". Tent shows, "Medicine Shows", gatherings at Mr. Ury's Drug Store for "nutmeg malts", homemade pie at Mendenhall's Cafe, ballgames, watermelon feeds, Fourth of July parades, winter ice skating, and weiner roasts will long remain in the memories of many. Also, how the older boys who were able to have Model A's or other cars in the '30's enjoyed racing them out of town. Halloween was always a special time for fun and pranks.



Main Street looking West — 1918

Before the days of the supermarkets in Grand Island and Central City, Chapman bustled with business and trade. The farmers brought cream and eggs to town to sell and bought their groceries, dry goods, shoes, lumber, and other necessities. During the Depression people found many and champ ways to entertain themselves. Band concerts, ball games, miniature golf, free movies (supplied by the merchants) attracted customers and good-sized crowds to town. The competition of the larger towns was too much and during the 1970's the meat market, the freezer-locker plant, the several grocery stores, and the lumber yard closed their doors. Only the bank, the post office and a repair garage are operating in the main part of town.

Chapman remains a good place to live in 1981 and attracts many people who are employed in Grand Island. Hard-surfaced streets, a sewage system, attractive homes, and the good school and churches help to keep the town growing. New improvements since our Bicentennial year include a new addition on the school, a fine park with tennis courts, lighted ball field and restrooms, and a new fire station. The population according to the 1980 census is 343 and we trust this will keep increasing during future years. *Submitted by June Vipperman*

EXCERPTS FROM CHAPMAN VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS 1893-1916

May 23, 1893 — Marshal (D.L. Greiner) shall receive $2 per month, payable monthly when earned.

May 24, 1893 — it's unlawful for any person or persons to jump on or off any train, engine or cars while in motion.

— unlawful for any cattle, hogs, horses, mules, sheep, goats or other animals, except licensed dogs, to run at large within the limits of said village.

— That all idle persons wandering abroad and living in taverns, groceries, beer-houses, market places, sheds, barns, or in open air, and not giving good account of themselves, and all persons wandering about begging, or who go about from door to door, or occupy public places for the purpose of begging and securing alms, shall be deemed vagrants . . .

— Proprietors of saloons, billard halls, and all other licensed places of amusement shall not keep open their places of business later than eleven o'clock P.M.

— The health officer shall notify persons with contagious diseases to keep within their own houses and premises and not to frequent the public highways in village, and he shall also post up notices on all places so condemned, stating the name of the disease, and on said street shall put up a red flag.

— unlawful for any person to appear in any public place in village in a state of nudity or in a dress not belonging to his or her sex, or in any indecent or lewd dress.

— unlawful for any person . . . to keep, entertain, or have control of, as mistress or otherwise, or in any manner any such houses of ill-fame and prostitution.

— unlawful for any person to cause, encourage or urge any dogs or other animals to fight.

April 15, 1898 — Marhsall's salary increased to $5 per month, and instructed to close pool hall by tomorrow night or collect license.

June 10, 1899 — The bill of Sam Easter for two months' salary and the burying of two dogs and one cow amounting to $11.00 was allowed

— all manure for the alleys of (Names deleted) and all other parties concerned be notified to haul it out.

— the saloon to be closed at ten o'clock.

July 5, 1899 — Frank Vogel be allowed to put a blind two feet high on windows of the saloon to keep the school children from looking in.

March 5, 1902 — the bill of Sam Easter for taking care of a tramp and putting in a plank for a side walk for 75 cents allowed.

June 6, 1906 — Building of H.S. Woodworth ordered boarded up so that loafers and tramps can't get in, and reduce the danger of fire.

April 20, 1916 — Dr. J.M. Triplett was appointed city physician.

May 1, 1916 — All pool hall applicants be rejected beginning May 1. Street lights be put in at Mr. Van Cleaves' corner and one in center of Main Street.

— Speed of automobiles be regulated to ten miles an hour within town.

October 3, 1917 — A hitch rack and storm fence be built north of M.E. Church.

October 16, 1918 — Central Power Company be granted 25% raise on streets with understanding that if lights be out more than two nights per week that raise be deducted.

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE VILLAGE IN 1900 — $260.35.

CHAPMAN SCHOOLS

Chapman's School Buildings: Chapman's first school was not conducted in its own school building, but in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Aurand, in 1871, whose grandchildren, Roy and Merna Schmutz, Mrs. Viola Rembolt, and Bruce Aurand still live in the immediate vicinity. The first teacher was Mrs. Enoch (Hannah Aurand) and the class sessions were held in the house which stood until a few years ago on the North half of Section 12-12-8 Merrick county, which was last owned and resided in by Mrs. Effie Vaughn, just west of Chapman. The first school building was erected in the 1870's, just across the road from the present home of Mrs. Hattie Husman. It was a small one story, frame, one room building. It was soon moved north of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks to the lot upon which it now stands. In 1887, it was moved to a lot on the south side of main street in Chapman, in order to make room for the new one-story, two-room brick building, which was used until 1917. It was torn down in order to make room for the present school building.

Until the year 1906, this two-room brick building



1888



1917 to the present

was the only brick building in Chapman. The two-room building was found inadequate, and in the late 1890's a one-room, frame school building was erected on the lot immediately east of the present building. This was used as a primary room until, after the completion of the new brick building in 1917. It was then moved to the South half of the Southwest Quarter of 2-12-8, Merrick County and remodeled into a farm home. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Hecht. The 1917 brick building served for almost twenty years, when the addition to the north was built in order to provide a gymnasium, auditorium, an assembly room and additional class room.

The High School was discontinued in 1959 and in 1967 the grade school became part of the Northwest Class VI District where the high school students attend. In 1977, two classrooms were added to the north side of the school and the gymnasium was also enlarged.

Rural Schools in the Chapman Area: Of great significance to the development of this community is the rural school. In this particular regard the Chapman Community is well aware of the fine contribution these much-maligned points of learning have made to the educational field. Staffed in most cases by the highest caliber dedicated teachers whose qualifications exceeded by far the criteria set forth by short-sighted institutions of so-called higher learning, it was all right to poke fun at the "Little Red School House", but in competitions of varied sort, facts have emerged to prove their products more than a match for their "Big City Cousins". In this area as we start to the Southwest with Districts 2 north and south, east of town was Districts 3, 39, 38; Northeast of town was Districts 26 and 42 which became part of the next named 28; west of town was District 29 and further southwest District 32. The contributions of these facilities will be recognized in history as many and varied toward furtherance of Nebraska Education.



District #2 N Ines Shoemaker — teacher circa 1915

SCHOOL DISTRICT #2 NORTH

District #2 North patrons obtained ground from the Union Pacific Railroad in June 1877 for school puposes. The site includes the building, grounds, forty acres of farm land and an abandoned cemetery. The first school-house was sold and is located on the farm across from the school grounds. A new school house was completed in 1931 by Len Mendenhall. Abram Beman was instrumental in planting the trees on the present grounds.

District #2 was in session longer than any other school in the county but it was not registered in the court house as such.

For the 1980-81 school year, the teacher for kindergarten through sixth grade was Jerene Lessig, with Helen Raker as teacher's aide. The pupils were Calvin and Steven Berg, Michael and Chris Boersen, Dena and Rick Callihan, Scott Clark, Renee and Donavan Freese, Andrew Hemmingsen, Traci Kolar, Jennifer, Christa, and Carrie Myers, Jeremiah Neville, and Steven Stoppkotte. The Board of Education consists of Lenora Schuette, Harold Stoppkotte, and Adeline Houdek.

Records available list the following past teachers: Janet Hinman, Judith Briggs, Barbara Hovie, Christine Stelk, Sylvia Cardwell, Carol Ruybalid, Lois Parker, Katie Fellwock, Ida Burmood, Irene Kiser, Elvera Reeves, Bernice Drummond, Laura Huffman, Iola Rice, Vera Muhs, Ruth Peters, Bertha Blauhorn, Twila Hoskins, Bonnie Gelling, Donna McGee, Anita Weber, Eva Kreider, Bonnie Wagner, Glena Rudy, Grace Basset, Mary Senkbile, Esther Crites, Erma Wilson, Lola Beck, Augusto Wagner, Marion Winkleman, Lola Ford, Everly Knight, Iola Thomas, Alice Lantz, Gladys Blevins, Edna Widman, Marie Beman, Lucy Volkman, Inez Shoemaker, M. Schultz, Rae Justice, and Edna Townsend. *Submitted by Leonore Schuette*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #29

District #29, located approximately two and a half miles northwest of Chapman, Nebraska, in Section 11, Township 12, Range 8, was formed on August 24, 1872, and held its first meeting to elect officers August 31 of the same year.

According to courthouse records, the boundaries were as follows: commencing at the southwest corner of Section 10, Township 12, Range 8, (which is the Archie and Larry Johnston Place), running then east on section lines (which would be down the blacktop as we now know it) to the southeast corner of Section 11, Township 12, Range 8, (which lies across the road north of Jack Klingenberg Place), thence, north one mile to the northeast corner of Section 11, then east one mile to northeast corner of Section 12, Township 12, Range 8, then north along township lines to the northeast corner of Section 36, Township 13, Range 8, (which is Matt and Louie Benes corner), then west along section lines to northwest corner of Section 34 (which is across the road east of Otto Frauen). Then south on section lines to place of beginning. Later, the farms occupied by Jack Klingenberg, Louie Muller and Clyde Mincher as well as Francis Janky and Alma Herman were taken from District #2 and added to District #29.



Golden Rod School Dist. #29
Circa 1899-1900

On March 4, 1878, the George Fishburn farm was set over into District #9 Chapman, and on December 9, 1891, the Virgil Husman farm was set over into District #9 Chapman.

The new boundaries then included the following: All of Section 34, 35, and 36 — Township 13 Range 8, all Section 2, 3, and 10 and 11, W½ and N½NE¼ and SW¼NE¼ Section 1, N½NE¼ and NW¼ Section 14, W½NE¼ and SE¼NE¼ Section 15, Township 12, Range 8.

At the June 30, 1913, school meeting it was voted to build a new schoolhouse, which remained in use until the district was dissolved. It was also at this meeting that the people of the school district attempted to move the school to the southwest corner of the school land. The returns of the ballot showed ten, for fifteen against and the motion was lost. The school remained in the northeast corner of the school land. The cost of the new schoolhouse was $1124.25 and the contract was given to T.B. Gardner of Grand Island, Nebraska.

Some of the early family names of the district include the families of Frank Janky; Joseph V. Janovec, Sr.; the Klingenberg's-Lou and Arthur; Joseph B. Nabity; John Hruza, Sr.; Emil and Fred Muller; Dick Husman; Walter and George Green; C. Jerome; Fred Wolf; Thomson's and the Giese's.

There is a cemetery located on the school land. The land is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ross Hecht.

A list of the teachers who have taught there since 1935 includes: Donald Lutes, Margaret Aurand, Mary Sinsel, Adeline Fogland, Alma Benson, Marcelline Zoucha, Hope Petersen, Shirley Bader, Louis Lindahl, Willa Sidders, Lorraine Molczyk, Ida Burmood and the last teacher to teach in school, Iola Rice.

On June 13, 1966, all of the above district became part of Class VI (Northwest High School District) Hall and Merrick County. On June 30, 1970, the district as such was dissolved, and territory annexed to District #9, Merrick County.

Ninety-eight years of operation of District #29 had come to a close. *Submitted by Marcy Janovec*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #39

School District #39 was organized February 22, 1873, and was dissolved June 5, 1967, having served the community over a period of ninety-five years. The original building was known as the Pleasant Vale School. It was used from 1873 to 1909. A new school building was constructed in 1909, known as the Bice School.

Recreation in winter months for children was ice skating at near-by ponds, building snow block forts, sledding and games of Fox and Goose. During warmer months games enjoyed were Hide and Seek, London Bridge is Falling Down, Ante I Over, Pump-Pump Pull Away, Base Ball and Soft Ball.

Friday was a special day. Pupils enjoyed art, spell downs and penmanship. This School building served as a social center throughout its history. A literary society provided an opportunity for both entertainment and a general news center. This was followed later with P.T.A. monthly meetings. A Union Sunday School and worship service over a span of years created fellowship for those who chose to attend. The school provided knowledge for four generations of several families.

Many teachers walked a distance of two miles to the school house, as did most of the children in attendance. The teachers were required to do their own janitor work, carrying in cobs and coal, and building fires in cast iron stoves on zero mornings. They also did their own house keeping of the building.

Memories of rural school days and lasting friendships provided some of the happiest days of the pupils lives. *Submitted by Faye Reeves Manning*



Baptismal Service in Wood River
Chapman Baptist Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

On January 26, 1885, a group met at Chapman's first frame school house to organize a Baptist Church. Letters of dismissal from the Prairie Creek Baptist Church were presented for Enoch and Hannah Aurand, Walter and Sarah Bush, J.H. Sutton, J.W. Tegarden and Jane Omelia. Received by experience were James Gallogly, Newton Lounsbery, Alonzo and Martha Sutton, James and Ella Ogden. Baptisms for Mr. and Mrs. James Coqulette, Alice Gallogly, Mary Laub, Ella Lounsbery and Abe Coqulette were held immediately. Rev. S.B. Hayes served as the first Pastor of the church.

Work started on a church in the fall of 1885, was completed in February 1886, and dedicated February 20, 1886, free of debt.

Rev. Samuel Miller served the longest pastorate, 1889-1899. In 1894, Rev. Thomas H. Dabney held Tent Meetings and over sixty persons united with the Church, all by baptisms held at the Platte River. During the pastorate of Rev. Edmund Brown, 1912-1916, the heating in the church was replaced, electric lights installed, and the reed organ was replaced with a piano.

In 1918, Rev. Walter O. Samuelson came as pastor, and the former Tester property was purchased by the Church for its parsonage, (owned now by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Yocom). In 1944, the Church bought the home of Mary Mashek, during the pastorate of Rev. H. Glenn Discoe.

In October, 1924, during the pastorate of Floyd W. Johnston, the church building was enlarged and



District #39
1909-1968



First Baptist Church

was dedicated free of debt on August 23, 1925. Again in 1955, under the leadership of Rev. Wm. Pfau (1953-1961), the church was enlarged. Rev. Pfau's ministry was the second longest pastorate of the church.

Rev. and Mrs. Zack Kleinsasser served from 1961-1968.

Many faithful workers have given unselfishly of their time and will continue to spread the Word of God as the Church enters its 97th year of service to the Chapman Community, under the leadership of Rev. and Mrs. Denison Conner. *Submitted by Barbara Ogden*

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Early Chapman Methodist Church

Prior to the building of the church in 1888, the Methodists met in the school house. At the dedication on Sunday on January 13, 1888, Reverend J.W. Shank, presiding elder of the Grand Island District, and Reverend Horatio Hilton of Central City preached the dedicatory sermons. Reverend Bross was the pastor and a large audience was present. The collection netted $462 that day making it possible to pay off the $450 morgage.

There were thirty-nine charter members. The remembered ones are as follows: Messrs. and Mrs. George Fishburn, Ezra Gallogly, William Easter, Cramer, Cashes Thomas Bellows, Beenblossom, John Martin, Andrew Buell, Osborne, Daniels, Mrs. Samuel Easter and Grandma Gallogly.

The first Sunday School Superintendent was Cashes Thomas, and his wife was the first president of the Ladies Aid Society. The first trustees were Ezra Gallogly, William Easter and Mrs. Cashes Thomas.

In 1924, the Church was raised and a basement constructed under the supervision of Ed Mattson. Members also helped and the Aid Society gave much of their time and money. Since then, the church has been remodeled and modernized.

The church was inactive from 1940 to January 1951, but much credit is due the Aid Society who kept active during these years. When the Chicago Lumber Company closed, the church bought the adjoining lots where memorial trees are attractively planted.

Pastors were shared with the Fairview Church 1961-71, when we became a part of the Chapman-Central City charge. Reverend Donny Silk is our present minister.



Present United Methodist Church

CHAPMAN CEMETERY

The cemetery lies quietly to the south of town as a reminder of those who once were active in the life of the town. The site was donated by John Donavan, Sr., the first U.P. section boss at Chapman. He and his wife Jane, both born in County Cork, Ireland, and a number of their decendants are buried here. The Cemetery Association was organized on June 13, 1885, with Alonzo Sutton as Chairman and John L. Martin as Secretary.

In the center of the lot is the flagpole placed in memory of Rex Manning and a marker honoring the Unknown Dead of the Civil War, erected by G.A.R. Post No. 158. The tool shed, made of heavy timbers, originally was a jail in town, situated south of the blacksmith shop on "Front Street". Close by was the village saloon; stories say the jail was often occupied by "overimbibers".

Most of the markers that are dated before the turn of the century, and there are many, tell the sad history of the high infant mortality, said to been caused by smallpox and diptheria epidemics. The inscription on the stone placed at the grave of J.F. Donavon's son, John Clove, born Oct. 8, 1908, died July 24 the same year, expresses it brokenheartedly, "Many hopes lie buried here". An unknown number of unmarked baby graves lie along the east fence. There are a number of very old stones merely marked BABY. How touching is the one at the grave of an Ada Hatfield, age forty which says "Our Mama".

Early cemeteries were usually in school districts' holding of forty acres. Another burial sight was at the District #29 land, now owned by the Ross Hecht family, where at least three remaining stones, dated in the 1800's, have been set apart. There was also a little stone on the Donavan place marked "Fannie", thought to have been the child of an early migrating family. Some early families had their own burial plots at their farms.

Two and one-half acres to the west have recently been purchased from the John Donavon family.

EASTERN STAR

Laura May Chapter No. 251, Order of the Eastern Star was named after Laura May Cahow, who was a life long resident of Chapman. She was the first Matron and several times later.

The Charter Members of this Chapter as of May 14, 1913, were Laura Cahow, Ethel Crone, Rebecca Frimann, Adolph Frimann, Perry Frimann, Minnne Laub, Allie Lantz, Ben Lantz, Helena Grosch, Alma Garbers, Jess Hillister, Effie Martin, Mildred Knight, Fairy Ury, Elza Ury and Lottie Worland.

There were sixteen members present when they received their Charter.

The By-laws read, "The Chapter shall be held on the first and third Fridays of each month". On September 5, 1958, the new By-laws were made up to read, "the regular stated meetings of Laura May Chapter 251, shall be held on the first Friday at 8 P.M. of each month". These are the present laws and hours of the Chapter.

At this time there have been fifty Matrons and twenty-five Patrons.

MASONIC LODGE

The history of Friendship Lodge No. 239 A.F. and A.M. of Chapman, Nebraska, dates from October 11, 1895 when the first meeting of the Lodge was held.

The Chapman Lodge U.D.A.F. and A.M. met in their hall in Chapman the eleventh day of October 1895. The officers present were: J. Friman, W.M.; W.H. Baird, S.W.; J.W. McIntosh, J.W.; John Sutton, Treas.; M. Tester, Sec.; W.D. Duncanson, S.D.; John Hollister, J.D. and J.C. Jeffers, Tyler.

The secretary record of the meeting held on October 25, 1895, includes: "Bro. P.P. Clayton of the Committee on Arrangements reported that the Lodge could have the use of the Odd Fellows Hall heated, use of Bible, janitor furnished, use of poles, ballot box, anti-rooms with stove, lamps and oil for $1.25 per night."

At the regular meeting April 24, 1896 the committee on proposed By-laws reported, By-laws read and on motion they were adopted and the name Friendship Lodge was adopted. At this time Bro. L. Hansen of Porter Lodge No. 106 of Loup City, Nebraska, was authorized to sign a petition for a Charter.

On July 19, 1915 preparations commenced for the purchase of new furnishings for the hall recently completed by Andrew M. Smith. On November 26, 1915, the first meeting was held in the new hall.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

In early days keeping a fire under control was almost impossible and depended upon all the townsmen running to form a bucket brigade at the town pump on Main Street. The town suffered a number of devastating fires in the early 1900's. During the night of April 20, 1915, the north half of Main Street, which included the John Garber home, the Crandell Store, and the Buell Store, was destroyed by fire. Chapman had no fire department, so help came from Grand Island. In September, 1921, the Hord Elevator burned. Fire also destroyed the Wilhelmi Garage. A man-pulled two-wheel cart carrying a fire-fighting chemical was used in some early fires. A 1918 Case Automobile which had belonged to Deitrick Hueneke was equipped by William Knight with a pump and became Chapman's first mechanical fire truck. Clarence Fleming dug the fire wells scattered through the village.

On May 18, 1951, the Chapman Rural Fire Protection District was organized. The first directors were Jake Kellogg, Theodore Husman, Edward Pohl, Alfred Bader and Francis Janky. Francis Janky was appointed Secretary-Treasurer, a position he has held since that time. He is the only charter member

They purchased a 1950 Ford, two speed, two hundred gallon truck from the Minnesota Fire Equipment Company. This was to be housed in the Village Hall. Rural Firemen elected August 1941 were Theodore Husman, Marvin Leamons, Joseph Janky, Virgil Husman, Alfred Bader, Edward Pohl, Floyd Ehlers, Vance Boelts, Lloyd Yutesler, and Francis Janky. Hoses, boots and other necessities were bought.

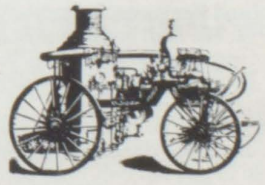
Through the years up-to-date equipment has been purchased including a 400-gallon tanker, a station wagon and a Jeep. In 1976, women were approved as firefighters. In July 1978, it was approved that the Village merge with Rural District and also that a new Fire Barn be built. This was completed in 1980, and is a fine addition to the town.

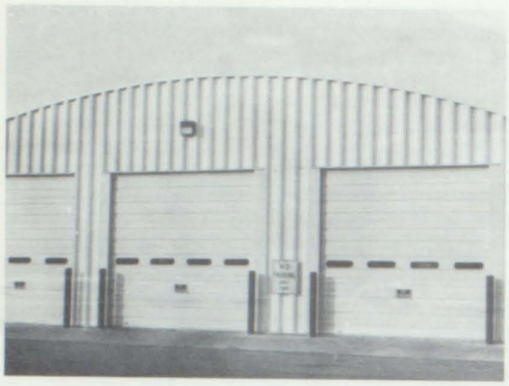
Present officers are Vernon Bruns, President; Virgil Husman, Vice President; Donald Berg; Bruce Aurand; and Francis Janky, Sec-Treas.

Jerry Neville is the present Fire-Chief. Chapman is proud of our devoted volunteer firefighters, who have served the community so well.



Chapman Fire Department — 1951





Fire Barn — 1981

UNION PACIFIC DEPOT

In 1972, the Union Pacific Railroad Comapny decided to close the agency at Chapman. Many persons recall when a train ride was as exciting as a flight on a jet and can conjure up visions of ladies in long dresses and men in bowler hats waiting in the passenger rooms for puffs of smoke to appear on the horizon. Separate waiting rooms were provided for the men and for the women and children.

There were always children at the depot. Dances were held in the passenger room in the late 1800's and the station agent, R. Hanan, was one of the best dancers. "Bums" found warm overnight lodging there. It also had living quarters for the early agents.

The rails were laid through Chapman in 1866 and John Donovan, a section boss, was the first railroad man assigned to Chapman.

Chapman was "rip-roaring" at times, especially when ranchers and their cowhands came to town to load the cattle on the trains. Many cattle were shipped to Chicago and owners could ride in the freight caboose to accompany their stock.

It is not known how many agents succeeded R. (Doc) Hanan but among them were Frank Riter, Walter Calhoun, Jugo Reisener, Clifford Fauquier, Paul Trullinger, and Eric Harbart. J.L. Paustian of Grand Island was the last agent. Elgin Hicks, helper for several years, later became executive vice-principal of the Union Pacific Railroad.

POSTAL HISTORY

The first Merrick County Post Office, Shoemakers' Point, was opened in 1861, with W.H. Mitchell as Postmaster. Previously, the mail had come, often in poor condition, by stage drivers.

The first Chapman Postmaster was a Mr. Washburn, succeeded by Mr. Howell with Daniel Donovan as deputy. A.B. Cady then served eighteen years. Then followed A.C. Schmutz and Ethel Corcilius. Justin Tressler one, Mr. Ricks three and Elza Gallogly, twenty-one. Elza Ury was appointed about 1918 and operated in his drug store until 1934 when Tressa Volkman became postmaster.

The office was moved to the old barber shop and about 1939 to the old bank building. The mail arrived five times daily except Sunday, when mail came twice. Mell Abbot hauled mail to and from the trains for many years. Miss Volkman transferred to Grand Island in 1944 and and was succeeded by Nettie Fauquier who served until 1972. Richard Dehning is the present postmaster.

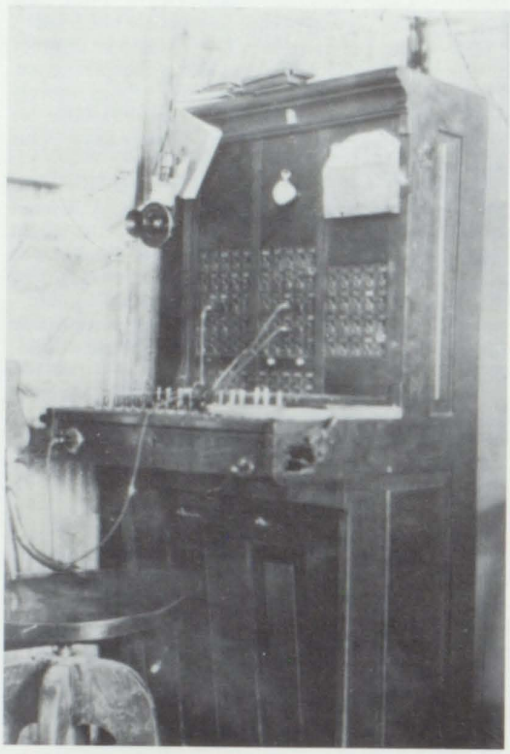
The first rural carrier was Elmer East, followed by Joe Morrel and Benjamin Lantz who served from 1906 until 1932. His mail buggy is now in the Stuhr Museum in Grand Island. Cecil Crone, Francis Holtorf and Pete McMahaon have served. Rosemary Mullen is the present carrier.

Children no longer go to the Post Office two or three times a day to see if there is anything new; the mail is trucked in and out only once daily.

CHAPMAN TELEPHONE COMPANY

In 1904, the Chapman Telephone Company was organized. The developers were John Donovan, Jesse Friman, John McCormack, Ralph Crandall and A.M. Smith. It was first operated by Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Gallogly in their building on Main Street. The line-man was Emil Volkman. His family operated the switchboard from 1914-1927 in that building, also their home, and continued in the corner house until 1941.

The operators used hand ringers for the many phones, twelve or so, on the party lines. The switch board used a battery system before electricity. A lot of "rubbering" went on. If someone failed to hear the phone in the night, often a neighbor, awakened by persistent ringing, would deliver a message. Sometimes, on a cold winter night, many people would have several party lines hooked up for lively conversation. "Ten Rings" signalled an important community announcement.



Telephone Switchboard — 1924

Mabel Volkman Fishburn recalls that many calls came earlier than the starting time of 7 a.m. and later than the 10 o'clock closing. People often called for names instead of numbers. Often the operator was asked to locate someone on main street and have that person call home. Frequent calls came to send the doctor quickly if he could be found. Volkmans were also responsible for ringing the fire alarm bell at the old tower on Main Street, and later the time whistle.

The company sold out in 1961. The area is served with dial phones by the Continental Telephone Company, whose undergraound system replaced the telephone poles and lines. Included in Chapman's service are local calls to Grand Island and Archer.

CO-OP CREDIT ASSOCIATION

The Chapman State Bank was one of the three early banks and it continued under the management of D.E. Magnuson until it was liquidated in 1934, paying depositors in full and was merged with the newly organized Chapman Co-Operative Credit Association. Mr. Magnuson resigned in 1952 when Allan C. Roemmich from Sutton, Nebraska became Secretary-Treasurer.

Mr. Roemmich had served in the Armed Forces and had graduated from the Grand Island Business College. He had been assistant to Mr. Magnuson since 1948. Allan and his wife Elsie have three children; Roger, Marjorie and Gail who attended school in Chapman until the family moved to Grand Island in 1962. Allan is assisted by Barbara Ruhe and Lola Ruzicka in providing the community with a complete financial service.

The Credit Association has also provided some of the excitement and news for the community. On August 21, 1940, a young man walked in and pulled a gun on David Jones, assistant, and made off with $500. The bandit was arrested about 7:00 p.m. in Central City the same day. The money was recovered as was the .32 caliber revolver which was used in the holdup and is still in the possession of the bank. Several other unsuccessful robberies were attempted in the fifties.

On September 19, 1973, a penny postcard arrived which had been mailed July 8, 1918 by the Wolbach Nebraska Bank. It had fallen behind a fixture in the Kansas City Post Office and was not delivered until the building was torn down.

FARMERS UNION

As a prelude to the Chapman elevator and store that served the community so very long and well, we find the local residents surrounding Chapman had worked through the Farmers Union and purchased many items through the State Exchange from Omaha. At that time the Farmers Union was the vehicle for the members buying as well as selling through their own medium for the common good.

In the forefront of this endeavor was Thomas Farrell, Ed Blevins, Arthur Klingenberg, Jake Kellogg, Floyd Tracy, Tom Fauquier, Herman Wiegert, Thomas Windfield, Claus Ruge, Rudolph Soeth, Henry Soeth, Emil Mullor, Alfred Dammann, Fred Rembolt, Clyde McMahon, Neil McMillian, Fred Willman, Marcus Cornelius, John Power, Fred Garbers, Cleve Reeves, Guy Rice, Bill McMahon, Oscar Blevins, Herb Wagner, Louis Klingenberg, Dick Kercheck, Albert Nieman, John Frauen, Wm. Stratman, Chris Sass, Julius Daberkow, Max Wagner, and many others.

The foresight of these men and mutual loyalty to this organization, paved the way for the Co-op facilities that are now enjoyed by so many in this area.

STEWART'S BLUEGRASS SEED COMPANY

Wise and Audra Stewart came to Chapman in 1930 from Missouri to harvest bluegrass seed. They found blue grass pastures over a large area, including Hall, Hamilton and Merrick Counties.

In Missouri, before coming to Nebraska, the



Bluegrass Seed Harvest
Wise Stewart, Fred Fogg, Huck Peterson, Matt Berstler

machines to strip the seed from the grass were drawn by horses. Wise brought seven machines along the first year to start the operation and used tractors to pull them which proved very successful in this level country.

In a few years he was using as many as one hundred machines and employed many people. The seed was dried in a curing yard, sacked, and shipped or trucked to the Peppard Seed Company in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Stewarts often meet someone who says, "I worked for you in Blue Grass days." They bought land in 1931 from T.B. Hord and built and operated the Ace Cafe, which is now owned by Babe and Eve Rassmussen.



PROFESSIONAL PIONEERS

These five men were business and professional pioneers of Chapman from 1898 until 1945. They served their community for a combined total of 207 years until the death of Dr. John M. Triplett, center. Left to right, they are Julius F. Grosch, blacksmith since 1898; David E. Magnuson, banker since 1906; Dr. Triplett, physician since 1910; Elza Ury, druggist since 1908 and Luther S. Cahow, barber since 1899. All were members of Friendship Lodge No. 239, A.F. and A.M. of Chapman.

CHAPMAN'S BALL TEAMS

Through the years, Chapman has been known for its outstanding ball teams. During the 1920's the Chapman baseball team attracted crowds to their games which were played at the Henry Wilhelmi farm, at the west edge of town, now the Terry Speed home. Their games were featured at the town's Fourth of July Celebrations of that decade. For four years they didn't lose a game on their field.

During the Thirties the "Chapman Outlaws" had their "Hey-Day". They played their first game in 1932 against their arch rival, Central City. A victory in that game led to a full season and stretched into a seven year sting. In 1937, their top year of the seven, their record was twenty-seven wins out of the thirty-two games they played. Transportation in those days was simple. After the team had helped their chief rooter, who never missed a game, A.C. (Allie) Schmutz, milk his cow, the Outlaws would pile into either Omar Walling's or Herman Harry's stock truck, then off they'd go to



1921 — **Back** — Ed Genowith, Len Genowith, Ted Ruben, Vaughn Cahow, Hilary Donovan, Frank Kellogg, Jack Roubal, Robert Klingenberg, Dick Husman, Louis Hruza, Osborne Ruben, Ed Klingenberg.



Chapman Outlaws, 1930's

Don Lutes, Austin Verley, Don Walling, Hans Klingenberg, Duane Volkman, Charley Baese, Mark Ribble, Ralph Hensley, Johnny Hruza, Osborne Ruben, John Volkman, Ray Wiegert, Oliver Smith, Hilary Donovan.

play. These old buddies have had many reunions to relive past glories.

The softball-playing tradition of Chapman has continued to the present day. The Chapman-based Manning-Rathman Construction Softball Team, sponsored by Chapman businessman Robert Manning, has won five championships since 1973 in the Central City men's sixteen team Slowpitch Softball League. In 1980, the team played seventy-six games with a record of sixty-two wins and fourteen losses. Currently the team is competing on the "Class A" level in Invitational Tournaments against teams from the major towns and cities in Nebraska including Omaha, Lincoln, Columbus, Grand Island and Kearney.

Chapman has also boasted several girls' and women's softball teams. The new park, with its well-lighted field and bleachers, promises great opportunities for the newly organized youth and adult teams, as well as fun for the community's spectators.



George Janky Orchestra — 1961

CHAPMAN LOVES MUSIC

Over the years many good times were experienced through the people's love for music. In the early 1900's dances in the loft of Jim Anderson's Livery Barn were well-attended, music furnished by local fiddlers and accordian players, also occasional hired orchestras.

Around 1910, the Town Band, including the Fishburns, the Laubs, Lou Cahow and others, provided well-attended open air concerts from a hexagon bandstand on the south side of Main Street. During the Twenties the band, led by Fred Hess, drew crowds regularly to town.

Several musicians have had orchestras, not only popular locally, but also across the state: Frank Janky, Mel Pop, Leo Michalski and Bill Knight. Our high school band was very active, and many of our young people have pursued musical careers and community musical undertakings.

BADER MEMORIAL PARK

A wonderful new recreation area, Bader Memorial Park south of Chapman, was dedicated in June, 1976. Camping areas, playground equipment, restrooms and seven sandpit lakes, all under the charge of a full time caretaker, are some of the features of the new park along the Platte River. There are hiking trails along the river front with conservation of the natural habitat, and access roads to all the lakes. Six of the lakes have been restocked with fish, and the lake nearest the park entrance has been developed for swimming. There is also a good variety of playground equipment for children.

Forty-eight acres were donated by Alfred Bader in memory of his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. John Bader of Chapman, and the balance of the land was contributed by Hamilton County. In December 1978, Mr. and Mrs. Bader gave ten additional acres to enlarge the park.

Caretaker Everett Kramer reported that during the summer of 1978, 564 trailers and 128 tents had camped on the grounds for an average stay of two and one-half days. With travel costs greatly increasing, this park is attracting more and more people looking for a vacation spot close to home as well as those travelers from faraway in need of inexpensive camping sites.

Mr. and Mrs. Bader have contributed much to our community. The much used Chapman Community Hall, opened at the Fall Festival of 1963, was also a gift from them.

PLATTE RIVER BRIDGE

In 1878, the Chapman bridge across the Platte River was completed. It was a wooden structure with "runouts" for passing and almost a mile long. Mr. Oscar May, who has descendants still in the area, was one who worked on the bridge. During that year the town experienced its first boom and became the center of an extensive trade territory, from Aurora on the south to the Loup River on the North, with Grand Island on the west, and Lone Tree on the east. The cost of this bridge, the finest on the river at the time, was $14,000.

In 1932, this bridge was replaced by a new shorter steel and concrete two-lane structure with land-fill approaches. Governor Charles Bryan came for the well-attended dedication. At the present time there are plans to improve and widen this bridge.

CHAPMAN HOUSE (The Old Hotel)

The Thomas Halls were owners of "Chapman House", the name given to the hotel which still stands on main street. It was a busy place for the many years that the Lincoln Highway was routed through the Main Street of Chapman. Local folk



Chapman House — about 1910

often gathered there at evening on the large porch or in the lobby to exchange stories with tourists from far away. Halls' daughter Meda and her husband Oscar Ruben managed the hotel for several years and served meals. Some of their regular boarders were David Magnuson and Wm. Knight during their bachelor days. Mr. and Mrs. L.H. Aurand operated the boarding house from 1928-1930.

The hotel was used as a hospital for some years, being operated by Mr. and Mrs. John M. Triplett, who made a great contribution to the Chapman area. This hotel still stands and is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gray.

OLD MART, THE HERMIT

Martin Segar, "Old Mart", came to the Irishtown community in the early 1880's, and was found living as a squatter in a hole in the bank of the Platte River on the Mattson farm east of Chapman. He was said to have worked at times for farmers in the area. The people of District #3 furnished material for a cabin and Frank Combs helped him build his shack on an island in the river. There he raised garden produce which he peddled to town in the summers. He would cut his hair with a piece of glass. Apparently well educated and known to be quite musical, he could not converse in English and lived quitely withdrawn from society, becoming known as "The Hermit". He disappeared about 1914; it is believed that he drowned in the river.

"MERRY WIVES"

When the third Tuesday of each month rolls around, it's "meeting night", and has been for a long time, for the members of the Merry Wives Club. It organized in October 1937, with ten members at the home of Mrs. June Vipperman who also served as the club's first president.

The nineteen members find lasting friendships, sharing through the years their joys and sorrows as well as striving to perfect the fine arts of homemaking and motherhood. In the early years the babies often outnumbered the mothers at the meetings. Annual events have been the summer family picnic, the Christmas party and tour of places of interest in Nebraska.

The membership is unique inasmuch as there are now three mothers and daughters. They are Portia Reeves and her daughter Kay Owens, Iola Rice and her daughter Janice Walker, and June Vipperman and her daughter Elizabeth Hodtwalker. Also there are two pair of mothers and their daughters-in-law: Connie and Kay Mattson and Barbara and Pam Ogden. Shirley Greving is the present president (1981). The other members are: Barb Brabander, Bunny Conner, Elsie Gerlach, Dorothy Knight, Eleanor Mattson, Gladys Merryman, Margaret Odle, and Edna Stoltenberg.

The club observed its 40th anniversary in July 1977, with a picnic dinner at the 4-H Building at Central City. Among the sixty-seven attending were current and former members and their families. Three of the original members, Anna Knight, Central City; Marion Sugden, Fairbury; and June Vipperman, Chapman, were present for the celebration.



Merry Wives — Modeling their wedding dresses at the home of Edna Stoltenberg

"FRIENDLY CLUB"

The Friendly Club was organized around 1925 and has been active since that date. The teacher of the Young Married Folks class, Mrs. Mildred Knight, felt young mothers needed diversion from the daily home task. The thought was to strengthen the moral and spiritual foundation of the home.

Members met in the homes as a study group. Quite often there were more small children than mothers present. Our membership always included our ministers wife. Lessons and programs were varied, always beginning with devotions. Current topics, films, book reviews, history and other topics of interest were used as basis for study and discussion. For many years we entertained our mothers on special days. Plants were exchanged, Valentine and Christmas parties were held, and husbands were special guests once each year.

Our club has been helpful through the years in various community needs as well as state projects. Lasting friendships and happy times are among our pleasant memories.

Three charter members continue active as club members. They are Blanche Hudnall, Ethel Tyler and Faye Manning. *Submitted by Faye Manning*

RECOLLECTIONS OF MRS. JOE HAYES

The April snowstorm started Easter Sunday, April 13, 1873, and lasted three days. Weather had been warm and wheat and grass had started to grow. A prairie fire had burned around the sheds where the cattle were kept, so they were turned out in the fields to avoid the fire. Sister and myself had gone on an errand to McGaverns, half a mile south. After the storm started Mrs. McGavern wouldn't let us go home. It was three days before our parents knew we were safe. The McGavern farm was where Darrell Widman now lives. Thirteen head of cattle were found later frozen on the river bank where they had drifted ahead of the storm.

Grasshoppers came in the fall of 1874. They came with a strong wind and were thick enough to darken the sun like clouds. Doors and windows were covered with mosquito netting as we had no screens. By the end of the day the netting had been eaten. Corn ready for roasting ears was eaten to stubs. The leaves and bark on the trees were eaten and smaller trees died. Fork and axe handles of hickory were eaten an eighth of an inch deep probably for the sweetness as no soft wood was molested. The grasshoppers were several inches thick on the arm rails, so passenger trains were stalled near the Kelly farm. That winter we had bread pancakes made out of cane, and wheat shorts.

RABBITS FOR THE HUNGRY

. . . from **the Grand Island Independent,** December 17, 1914.

"Three barrels of rabbits, about 125 in all, were received by express today from Chapman, where the hunters had killed them Sunday. These rabbits were turned over to the needy people.

A large list of names were given to Mr. Buell, the northside grocer, and he will distribute the rabbits for that section of the city. A list of names from the southside will also be secured.

The Chapman hunters, it is reported, have killed hundreds of rabbits and are shipping barrels of them into Omaha for distribution by the city mission. The American Express Company handles all the shipments gratis."



Inside Barber Shop — early 1900's Lou Cahow, barber



Drug Store

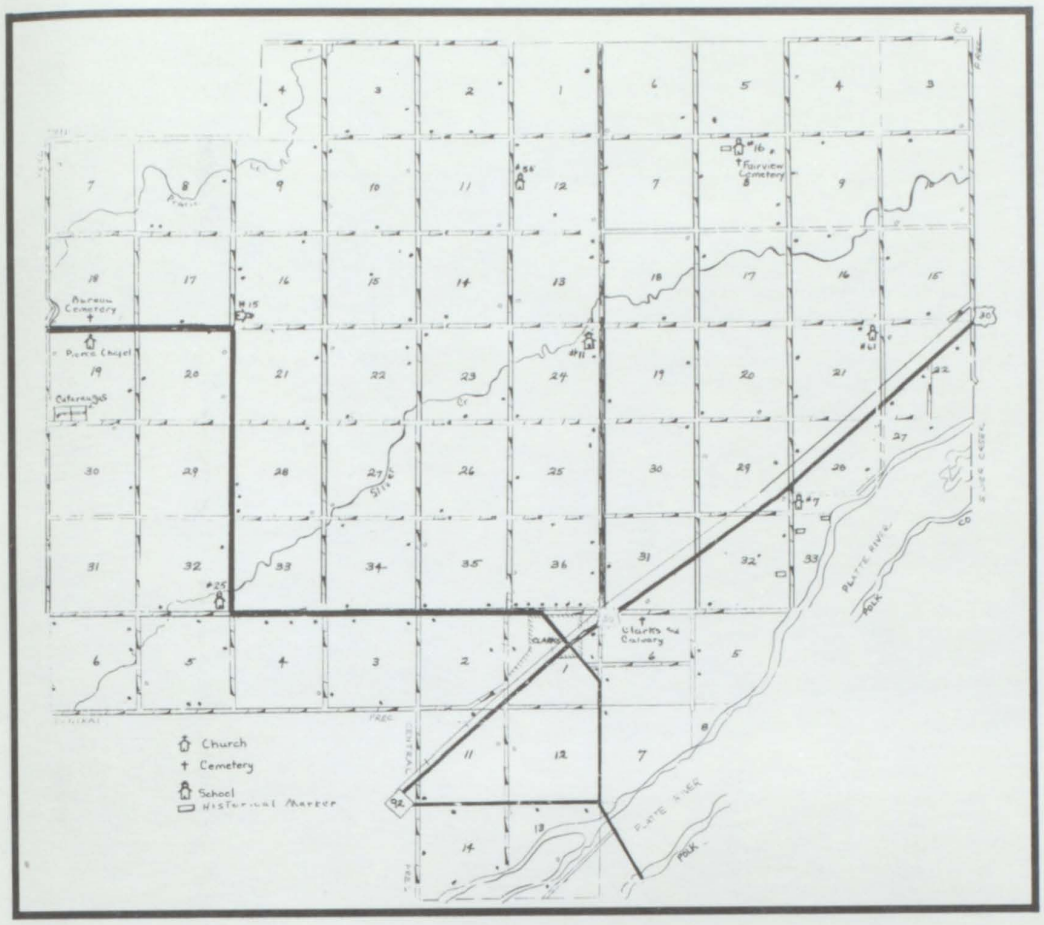


Julius Grosch in his Blacksmith Shop — early 1900's



Chapman High School Basketball Team participated at State Tournament — 1928

Clarksville Township



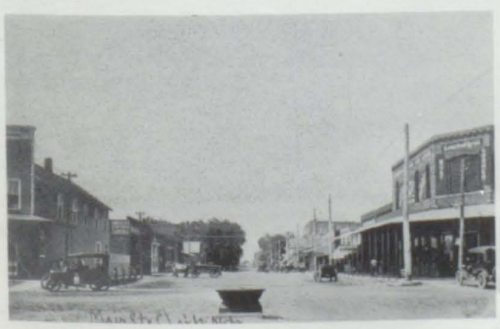
July 7, 1871, the former east precinct of Merrick County was divided into two precincts. Clarksville Precinct was designated as number two. The voting place was set at District #7 school, and the first officials were: John McLean, justice of the peace; A.C. Mayfield, constable; T.J. Hartwell, assessor; F. Coyle, road supervisor; John McLean, E. Campbell, and Thomas Tague, judges of election; F. Coyle and A.C. Mayfield, clerks of election.

The south central portion of Clarksville Township includes the village of Clarks with the largest area of the township comprising the land north of the village and continuing to the Nance County line.

Present township board members are: Rodney Pollard, Chairman; Philip Foulk, clerk; and Jay R. Burruss, treasurer. *Submitted by Clarksville Township Chairman, Dorothy Glasser*

CLARKS

As the history of Clarks is revealed, we are aware of a man with insight, Calvin Blanchard Hartwell, who, in 1865, with his family and possessions, stopped his wagons three miles from the present northeast section of the village of Clarks. He had come to open a ranch called Junction Ranch for the stagecoach-traveling public. Slowly other families became interested in the area and community life of the scattered homesteaders centered around Junction Ranch and the area which became the permanent village of Clarksville.



Clarks, Main Street — 1911

The name Clarks is very significant. The town was platted in the fall of 1866, and named in honor of Silas H.H. Clark, the superintendent of the Union Pacific Railroad. For many years the village was referred to as Clark's, Clarksville and Clark's Station.

The earliest recorded resident of the new village was John McLean in 1866, and his marriage the same year to Mary Hartwell was the first recorded wedding ceremony in Clarksville. In 1867, John F. McLean, John and Mary's son, was born, the first natural increase to the population of Clarksville. Other early residents were Frank Coyle who arrived in 1866, and Thomas Tague and A. Kerr, who became the first postmaster came in 1868.

The first general store was opened in Clarks on North Millard Street by L.B. McIntyre in 1871. Since that time there has been a general store in Clarks with the Wm. Douglas Store having been in continuous business since 1888. This record of business may well be the longest of any in Merrick County.

The spirit of the 'gay nineties' was felt as the village of Clarks prospered and became the second largest town in Merrick County, with a population of over six hundred.

There was one time in the early days when Clarks lacked only one vote of being selected as the state capital according to C.E. Persinger in his book *A History of Merrick County*. If this event in history had become a reality, can we visualize what this village nestled peacefully near the Platte River would be today?

This letter from the Clarks' business men appeared in the 1912 spring edition of the *Clarks Enterprise* and verifies the accounts of Clarks as a thriving and productive community in the early days:

"To the farmers:

You are invited to bring your grain, produce and livestock to Clarks and to purchase your supplies from Clarks' merchants. Clarks has good banking facilities, where you can transact your business, and about forty professional and business men handling dry goods, groceries, clothing, notions, shoes, hardware, implements, wagons, carriages, automobiles, drugs, fresh and cured meats, livery and feed, produce, cream, lard, coal, lumber, grain, livestock, insurance, jewelry, confections, all of which you will find among the best and most reliable quality, backed by our own dealers and guaranteed to be as represented.

We have good schools, churches, doctors, dentists, masons, jewelers, barbers, carpenters, blacksmiths, printers, shoemakers, tinners, painters, telegraphers, all well skilled in their lines of work and at your service.

Here you can sell your grain, fat stock and produce, and be assured of the highest market price because Clarks' buyers have ample facilities for handling the business. You can buy standard goods at right prices because goods of the best quality are here and competition is keen.

We invite those not permanently located to carefully consider the advantages of Clarks and surrounding country, come and see, then make your home with us.

Yours for business,

Signed: T.L. Dixon, Chairman.

Shaw Little, Clerk."

The opera house, located on present George Street was the civic center of Clarksville in the early 1900's. Basketball, graduation exercises, lecture courses, musical programs, and even dancing lessons were held there. North of Clifford Barnes' present home was the site of the Merrick County Fair. The location of the present Mable Pollard home was the site of the merry-go-round which came to town each summer and brought joy to the youngsters.

However, Clarks has not been without its disasters of fires, floods and cyclones and as the years have passed the pangs of depression and wars also left their toll on the community. With strong ambitions toward progress, the citizens of Clarks have rebuilt many homes, new faces and businesses have joined the ranks of the community and many businesses have moved out — all a part of the life of any community.



Grain Elevator, 1924

Today we can still bring our grain to Clarks as we are served by two elevators, Farmers Co-op and Clarks Grain, and our hogs reach the market through the Clougherty Packing Company. There are no longer the forty professionals of the early 1900's, but the Douglas Store, Mills Lockers and Laundramat, Glasgow and Kuhn Insurance Agencies, Clarks Grain Office, the Bank, Post Office, Library, and Merriman's Tavern plus the Lion's Club, VFW and Masonic Temple line the main street of our village. Strobel Industries, Clarks Lumber, Colby and McGuinn Garages, Pollard and

Co-op Oil Companies, Clarks Telephone, Sweet Electric, Wurtz Feeds, Diane's Decorating, Connie and Diane's Beauty Salons, B and S Moving, Shorty's Platte River Inn, and B-D Drive Inn also avail their services to us.



1978 Ambulance used by the Clarks Rescue Unit

We are no longer served by a medical doctor or a dentist, but must seek treatment in neighboring communities. Although the Emergency Rescue Unit can not replace the doctor, it has been serving our community well, since the 1960's.

The Clarks Fire Department, with its equipment housed in a new building on the main street of our village, continues to efficiently serve the Clarks community.



Fire Truck and Fire Station

All ages are given the opportunity to expand spiritually and emotionally, scholastically and physically with good churches, schools, and recreational activities.

The Business Peoples' Association sponsors the annual Bean Days each September which brings folks from far and near to eat ham and beans and share in the friendliness of our community.

We are proud of our village and its future rests in the hands of each of us who call it 'home'. *Submitted by Dorothy Glasser*

TOWN BOARD

The first town board meeting was held March 14, 1885. Mr. G. Agnew, E.G. Brindle, S. Chesley, J.C. Hartwell, and Ed Richardson were appointed by the county commissioners as the first trustees of the village of Clarksville. The first election held in Clarks took place on April 7, 1885, when five village trustees were elected. John Hartwell was elected chairman and Franklin Sweet as clerk.

Ordinances were passed in the late 1880's prohibiting dogs from running at large, people from jumping on and off trains in motion, and punishing vagrancy. In 1887, a resolution passed to fence the village cemetery and Louis Schwatz was appointed sexton. The cost of having a grave dug was $3. The village marshall's salary was $10 per month.

During the early 1900's, strict fines were imposed and collected. A resolution, unanimously passed by the board, instructed the town's law officers to "arrest any and all persons found in the village using profane language, vulgar or indecent language, intoxicated, or disturbing the peace and take them before the proper officer for trial."

The 1981 village board members are Mayor Leonard Strobel, W.H. Kohl, Ira Reisener, Don Temme, and Dwain Schultz. Mrs. Dwight (Lynda) Strobel is village clerk and Mrs. Dale (Barbara) Church serves as treasurer. The present village marshall is Burt Brazee. The village utility man is Dave Schultz who was hired by the board to maintain the cemetery, streets, park, water and sewer.

POST OFFICE

This post office was established in 1869 as the Clarksville Post Office and its name later changed to Clarks Post Office. The first Postmaster was Mr. Kerr. Others to serve this office were: Robert Douglas, Bess Elizabeth McLean, George Beardsley, George L. Jordan and Donald B. Douglas.

Rural Free Delivery was started in 1900, with four rural routes originating from the town. The rural carriers in 1912 were: Wm. Alberton, Archie Stearns, Frank Noble and Dave Wilson. Some faithful rural carriers over the years have been: Edwin Brown, Andrew Christensen, Asa Pollard, Leslie Kohlhof and still serving as a substitute, F.P. Bender. The Clarks rural area is presently served by two routes with Robert K. Betts and Lyle W. Nedrig as carriers.



Post Office and Lions Club

The location of the post office has changed many times in these years. Its present location is the north end, east side of Main Street in downtown Clarks. The building is owned by the Clarks Lions Club. The Clarks Post Office serves a town and rural population of about 1200. Zola R. Rieken now serves as Postmaster having received her appointment in June 1971. *Submitted by Zola R. Rieken*

TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

Prior to 1917, the only lending library in Clarks was in the public school belltower where books could be checked out on Friday afternoons.

In March 1917, a library board was elected, application to the Carnegie Foundation in New York City was made for a grant to build a public library. The application was granted, the last grant given due to World War I. The township board levied a tax and agreed the township would maintain the library after its construction.



Library

In 1918, the site of the new library was purchased.

Harriett Morse Little was elected the first librarian in July 1918, at a salary of $50 per month. Mrs. Fern Beardsley was elected in 1920, followed by Mrs. Mae Gray, and Bess McLean. Mrs. Cleo Schank was elected in 1930, and served faithfully until 1976, when illness forced her to retire.

The total number of volumes is approximately 7800 which includes some 400 paperback books donated by the Hartwell family of Omaha. The Research Club, Woman's Club and individual families have donated books as memorials.

The memorial shelf collection is kept in a glass-enclosed bookcase donated by Miss Lelia Moorman, former principal of Clarks High School. Other gifts have been donated by the Clarks Woman's Club; the family of Fannie Bittinger; the T.O.P.S. Club; Violet Terry; Ronda Glasser; an interior paint job by the V.F.W. and financial aid from the Merrick County Foundation.

The present librarian is Mrs. Mildred Dittmer with members of the library board Mrs. Frank Schuldt, Mrs. Art Schlondorf and Ethel Sweet. *Submitted by Ethel Sweet*

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

The Union Pacific section house was built in Clarksville in July 1871. The *History of the State of Nebraska* 1882, stated that Clarksville was a thriving station on the Union Pacific Railroad.

Clarks has continued to thrive despite the efforts by the U.P.R.R. to close the station in 1979. During the trial held for the purpose of closing the station permanently, concerned Clarks citizens and business men were convincing in their testimonies for the need of the station to remain open.

The new depot, built in 1929, and presently in use is of Spanish style and one of the last built by the U.P.R. It is a brick structure with terrazo floors and waterfall passenger benches.



Depot, now being abandoned by the railroad, and dismantled.

The railroad has shifted from single-car shipments to multi-loaded trains hauling coal from Wyoming coal fields and grain from the Middle West to West Coast ports for export. For the last fifteen years Clarks has been shipping many hogs to Los Angeles. Mostly hogs and grain are shipped out of this station with a gradual increase in the number of cars shipped for the year from about 1200 cars in 1977 to about 1700 cars in 1980.

Cars in use at present are sixty to seventy foot grain hopper cars; sixty foot coal cars; and forty foot stock cars; with many ninty foot automobile loaders, usually pulled by four to six diesel-powered locomotives.

The future for Clarks looks very bright with many more multi-grain train shipments and hogs, plus many more through coal shipments through this main line station.

Submitted by George Finley, the present U.P.R.R. Freight Agent.

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

The Clarksville Messenger, the first newspaper of the town, published its first issue on May 4, 1878, with James J. Kreider as editor. In 1879, J.C. Hartwell took over due to the sudden and mysterious disappearance of Mr. Kreider. Several sources state

that the name was changed to the *Revised Messenger*. In 1890 the name was changed to the *Clarks Leader*.

The *Clarks Enterprise* was established in 1948 when the publishers, Al Leonard and Marie Carlson moved the equipment to Cedar Rapids, Nebraska. In 1950, John L. Carter purchased the *Silver Creek Sand*, moved the plant to Clarks and started the *Clarks News*, printing both papers in Clarks. Mr. Carter continued publication until his retirement. The paper was then printed in Osceola for a short period of time.

At the present time, Dick Woods of the *Palmer Journal* is combining the news of Silver Creek and Clarks into the *Twin City Post*, giving us the most current happenings of the area.

BANK OF CLARKS

The first bank in Clarks, The Merrick County Bank, was established by Walter Chamberlain in 1889. A national charter made the bank into The First National Bank of Clarks. A later State charter made it The State Bank of Clarks. At one time there were three banks in Clarks. They merged into The Farmers National Bank which eventually closed.

The original two-story, brick Merrick County Bank building was moved across the street from the present site with aid of horses. A new building was constructed in 1905.

The present Bank of Clarks was chartered February 9, 1937. The June 30, 1937, report showed loans $10,652.50, individual deposits $46,000.47, and capital $10,000.00.

In May 1950, Cliff E. Miller was made president of the bank. Leonard Selko purchased his stock in October 1950. In September 1954, C.R. Caley of Springfield, Nebraska, purchased Selko's stock.

When C.R. Caley died in 1916, his wife operated the bank until her son could arrive from Alamosa, Colorado.

In 1973, the bank was completely redecorated retaining the beautiful stained glass, the marble, and the cross-cut oak of the original decor.

Former employees include Harriette Gates, Roma Pollard, Gordon C. Bush, Cleo Schank, Sally Sweet, James Heins, Arnetta Little, and Terry Connick.

As of December 31, 1980, the Bank of Clarks reported loans of $5,488,048.40, and deposits of $6,392,373.15. Employees are L. Clark Caley, President; Eva E. Caley, Vice-President; Craig Swedenburg, Assistant Vice-President; Elva M. Church, Cashier; Betty L. Cook, Assistant Cashier; Lynda Strobel, Chris Caley, Pat Ksiazek, and Robert Shewanick, Insurance. *Submitted by L. Clark Caley*

WM. DOUGLAS & COMPANY STORE

Wm. Douglas and Company may well have been in business the longest of any in Merrick County — ninety-three years.

In March of 1888, Wm. Douglas and E. Starrett started a general merchandise store on Front Street in Clarks, Nebraska. That same year the partners separated and Mr. Starrett operated a confectionary store.

In 1902, the present store building was purchased from Mr. Dixon, and moved to its present location.

In 1916, William Douglas Jr. joined his father in the business. In 1920, Basil Douglas returned from his homestead in Wyoming. He had previously served in France during World War I. William Douglas, Jr. later accepted a mail carrier position in Newman Grove. Basil and his father operated the store until the death of William Douglas in 1930. Basil then operated the store alone.

In 1942 the south building was purchased from William Higgins and was operated as a feed store. In 1946, William R. Douglas joined his father in the business. A year later the store was completely remodeled and the feed business discontinued. The building was later used as an insurance office for Vincent Douglas Agency.

In 1955, Basil Douglas retired and William R. Douglas took over the business. The store was completely remodeled and a fresh meat department was added. In 1963, William R. (Bill) Douglas purchased the Snider Locker Plant and built on a slaughterhouse. In 1972, his sons Robert and Greg returned from military service and operated the locker and meat cutting business, also the laundromat. In 1978 the locker and laundromat were sold to Mr. and Mrs. Bud Mills and family of Aurora, Nebraska. *Submitted by Marlene Douglas*



Douglas Store — 1947

CLARKS TELEPHONE COMPANY

In 1908, Otis Allen Bittinger, a Clarks, Nebraska, native, and his wife, Fannie Bird Bittinger, purchased the Clarks Telephone Exchange and moved the switchboard to their home one half block west of the bank. They operated the company from that same location for the next forty years. During the early switchboard days, Clarks telephone operators were known as the "Hello Girls." One of the first operators was Otis' sister, Mabel Bittinger. The number of subscribers grew to almost 400 before the great depression, when subscription dropped over 50%.

In 1946 Vinson A., only son of Fannie and Otis, returned home from the U.S. Army and assumed ownership-management of the company. The Clarks Telephone Company was incorporated in 1957, and two years later converted to a dial system. The new switchboard was placed in the new building directly behind the Bittinger residence. One, two, and four party service was offered in town, and eight party in the rural area.



Telephone Office — 1981

Under Vinson Bittinger's leadership, many modernizing factors were utilized to advance and improve telephone communications in the Clarks area. Direct distance dialing, mobile phones, pager systems, placement of many miles of buried cable, and the latest innovations in touch tone phones are a few examples. Vinson and his wife, Margaret Hayes Bittinger, purchased and maintained two other telephone exchanges — in Ulysses, Nebraska (1958) and Staplehurst, Nebraska (1961).

The 1970's saw the addition of two members of the third generation of Bittinger men into the Clarks Telephone Company. Eldest son, Michael Vinson, joined the company in 1969 and youngest son, Timothy Daniel, in 1977.

During the Bicentennial year, 1976, a one party rural system was completed. In September, 1976, the Bittingers held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Clarks Telephone building. Three generations of Bittinger men were represented by Vinson A., his sons Michael V. and Timothy D., and his grandson, Mark Bittinger.

On Saturday, April 30, 1977 Margaret and Vinson held open house at the new telephone company building. The building is modern in equipment and design, and houses a business office, conference room, inner office, and storage area for parts and repairs. In the very near future will be the installation of a complete computer system.

The Bittinger family has served the Clarks Community via the Clarks Telephone Company for over seventy-two years and will continue to meet that challenge in the years ahead. *Submitted by Mrs. Michael (Patricia) Bittinger*

EARLY CHURCH SERVICES

The first church building to be erected in Clarksville was St. Paul's Episcopal in 1873. The church faced south on Morris Street. The site is now the vacant lot south of the Ed Hunscote residence. In 1881, the membership numbered fifty. The value of the church property at that time was $2000. No nails, only wooden pegs were used in the building of the church. Cleo Schank, in an interview in 1976 for the Bicentennial, remembered sitting quietly as a child during church services and looking at the beautiful, long, narrow, stained glass windows. The church closed in 1904 and was moved to Albion.

North of the Episcopal church on the site of the present Ed Hunscote residence was the Friends' Church. Singing school was held on Friday afternoons for the children of Clarksville. No records are available to tell us when the church closed or how long it served its members.

Other early religious services held in the Clarksville area were conducted by Rev. John Gunderman of the Baptist denomination in a granary on the Jesse Turner farm west of Clarks. The congregation was reported to have filled the building to overflowing. The farm today is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wruble.

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Peter's Church, established as a mission in the late 1860's, was administered by Father Ryan of Columbus. Services were held in an old section house one mile east of the present town of Clarks.

In 1871, the Union Pacific Railroad deeded a plot of ground for the Catholic Church. In 1872, a frame building was erected on what is now Lot 5 Block 12 of the present Clarks.

Following Father Ryan were several priests from Central City who served the Catholic people.

July 10, 1918, Father John Kunkel became resident pastor of St. Peter's. A parsonage was built May 8, 1919, on the three-acre site of the present church. May 10, 1927, a meeting was held in the old church and definite plans for a new church were made and approved. The new church was to cost $35,000.00 with the parishioners volunteering their



St. Peter's Catholic Church

services to haul all the material from the depot and to excavate the basement. Ground was broken June 10, 1927, and on June 10, the cornerstone was blessed by Bishop Beckman of Lincoln, administrator of the Omaha Archdiocese. The building was dedicated May 23, 1927. The final accounting of expenditures totaled $40895.77. By December 31, 1929, the entire liability was paid. The old church building was torn down and sold at auction for $359.

After serving the parish thirty years, Father Kunkel was transferred and the present pastor, Father Joseph Kaup, was appointed June 16, 1971. Working with Father Kaup to help take care of the needs of the parish are the St. Peter's Altar Society and the Men's Holy Name Society. *Submitted by Roma Pollard*

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

In 1873 a Union Church building was erected on the site of the present Congregational Church. This building passed into the hands of Congregationalists, and in 1878 the First Congregational Church was organized. The charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Morse, Henry Beardsley, J.B. Philbrook, R.E. Wetherel, J.D. Porter, L.M. Chamberlain, J.H. Castle, S.H. Westgate, T.L. Dixon, M.M. Kokjer, J.M. Kokjer, J.T. McLean, Mrs. H.M. Lyons, W.C. Robinson, and C.L. Hatch. The first pastor of the church was Benjamin S. Dean, a circuit rider in the area.

During the entire life of the church the Women's Fellowship, first called the Ladies Aid, has been an important part of the church body often helping with church expenses. The group often met in homes until the church kitchen and side hall were built in 1908.

In 1915, the church voted to build a new parsonage. The price of the new house was not to exceed $3500 and was to have six rooms. In 1917, a committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of a pipe organ for the church. In 1918, this committee reported that because of the war, the money raised should be used to purchase war savings bonds.

During the 1930's the church faced many trying times, but by 1942 was again able to call a full-time pastor and remodel the church building. In the 1960's the church remodeled the old belfry and installed stained glass windows. On April 30, 1978, the church celebrated its Centennial Sunday with much rejoicing. To God be the Glory! *Submitted by Joyce Kuhn*



Congregational Church Clarks

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The roots of the Clarks United Methodist Church were established in 1869, when David Marquette, an itinerant preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church, organized a class, in the Calvin Hartwell home at Junction Ranch. This church remained at the Hartwell home for two years and was then transferred to the Hartwell sod schoolhouse, known as District #7.

In 1879, the building of the Methodist Episcopal Church began. The following spring the building was completed, which included a four-room parsonage and the lot on which is located the present church. The church was named the Somer's Chapel,



United Methodist Church

in honor of Mrs. Somer Davis' generosity to the church.

On Sunday, November 30, 1947, fire destroyed the structure. After the flames were extinguished, it was discovered that the picture of Christ hanging on the west wall was undisturbed — not even damaged by water. This was a symbol that Christ was still with us; we need not be defeated.

A new structure was completed in 1949 and dedicated in 1950. The Art Trail home was purchased in 1961 as a parsonage and the old parsonage which was home for our ministers for sixty-seven years, was demolished.

In 1968, following the merger of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Churches, the name changed from Methodist, as it had been called since 1939, to the United Methodist Church.

Many improvements have been made to both church and parsonage over the years with complete remodeling of the parsonage in 1979.

The centennial celebration of the church building was observed in 1979, with everyone sharing in the inspirational services of praises to God. *Submitted by Ronald Glasser*

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CEMETERY

The cemetery was first established as Calvary Cemetery in 1888 and later functioned under the auspices of St. Peter's Catholic Church.

The first recorded burial was Edward Higgins, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Higgins, who was buried in December 1888. There are now 188 recorded burials.

A beautiful Resurrection Monument was erected August 19, 1975, in memory of all the pastors of St. Peter's Church of Clarks — deceased and living. It was donated by Leo and Eva Starostka.

The present cemetery board of 1981 has four members: Donald Beck, Wm. Douglas, Vinson Bittinger, and Father Joseph Kaup. *Submitted by Roma Pollard*



Entrance to Clarks and Calvary Cemeteries

CLARKS CEMETERY

The Clarks Cemetery is located in the Northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section 6 Township 14 Range 4 of Clarksville Township.

The first lot was issued to Hulda Lyons on 27 August 1886. At the present time two hundred twenty-four lots have been sold.

Roll call of the dead (military men) lists forty-three men who have served in our country's military.

Amos Gates is custodian of the records of the cemetery and is in charge of selling the lots. Three years ago Mrs. Amos (Harriette) Gates was asked by the Clarks Town Board to revise the records as all that remained from the first records was a cardboard plot map. Harriette and Amos have spent many hours walking the cemetery, studying markers, and graves, trying to put together the location and ownership of the lots.

Dave Schultz maintains the grounds and with his assistance Harriet and Amos have made many improvements during the past few months.

The cemetery is a beautiful tribute to those who have gone before us. *Submitted by Harriette Gates and Dorothy Glasser*

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY

A meeting was held at Fairview schoolhouse in School District #16, Merrick County on June 15, 1875, for the purpose of organizing a cemetery association and incorporating it. Eleven men were present and a vote was taken to elect five trustees and one clerk. The following were elected: Samuel Batty, L. Slosson, Alfred Thomas, E.M. Southwell, J.B. Hath, and Clerk, Franklin Sweet.

The cemetery is located in Section 8 Township 15 Range 4 of Clarksville Township. Lots were priced at $2 each and plotted 12′ x 16′. The price for digging a grave was $1.50 regardless of the season. The association decided to maintain four lots in the southeast corner of the cemetery for burial of the transient population.

Seven Civl War veterans are buried in the Fairview Cemetery: John Morse, John McClintic, T.J. Turpin, B. Cleveland, Alfred Thomas, Jared Kimball, and Thomas Gannon.

Improvements were made to the cemetery area during the Bicentennial. George Sweet has the records in his possession.



Fairview Cemetery North of Clarks

PIERCE CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In the year 1886, Reverend R.K. Pierce came to the Clarks area as pastor and was instrumental in erecting the Pierce Chapel Church in his name in 1889. The church, erected two miles west and two miles south of its present site, served the area until 1913, when T.D. Betts, and Warren Curry aided in moving the church structure to its present site. One of the main conveniences for the move was to have the cemetery directly across the road from the church. The people who had been attending services at the Pleasant Hill School then joined the Pierce Chapel group.

Rev. Wm. S. Sanders was the first pastor in the new location, and a good horse and buggy were required to visit all of the homes that this pastor served.

It was interesting to note that in 1914, $200.00 was raised to repair the church and put in a basement. In 1916, $186.00 was raised to paint



Pierce Chapel United Methodist Church



Pierce Chapel United Methodist Church

inside and outside of the church. In 1917 the furnace was put in with the chimney on the south side.

In 1950 the church was completely remodeled and dedicated at a cost of nearly $3,000.00.

Pierce Chapel has many warm memories for everyone connected with this church. We all remember chicken suppers, tasty home-made ice cream socials, and the chopping bees held to secure wood for winter use.

In 1941, our pastor, Rev. Walter Neth, was named Rural Pastor of the Year, at the Annual Conference in Omaha. A bus load of happy parishioners were on hand to share his joy.

Many other changes have come about throughout the years, but the people by the excellent influence of this country church have remained much the same in that they still maintain and share their love for their fellow man in a very christian way. *Submitted by Bobby Grafe and Ruth Fish*



PIERCE CHAPEL CEMETERY (THE BUREAU CEMETERY)

This cemetery is located on the principal highway between Clarks and Fullerton, seven miles northwest of Clarks in the Pleasant Hill district. It came into being in 1871 as the result of the short illness and death of a child, Susie Woods, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Zenus Woods of Bureau County, Illinois, who were early pioneers in that part of Nebraska. With the unexpected death of his little daughter, Mr. Woods was faced with how and where to bury her. To return her to Bureau County, Illinois, was out of the question. It was impractical to attempt to drive to Columbus, thirty-five miles away, to obtain lumber for the coffin. There was no established burial place in this vicinity. It was decided to bury her on their homestead. Accordingly, he created a cemetery of one-half acre on the south-west corner of his homestead and in this new burial ground laid his daughter to rest. The cemetery became the resting place for an increasing number of early pioneers. As so many of these settlers were from Bureau County, they named the cemetery, "Bureau". In time the cemetery had to be enlarged.

In the early days of the cemetery, a tract of land was opened up especially for Civil War Veterans. Many of them migrated in covered wagons, took up veterans' claims and began homesteading in the neighborhood. Many are buried in Bureau Cemetery. It has been enlarged many times and every Memorial Day people come from long distances to decorate the graves of veterans and loved ones. *Submitted by Bobby Grafe and Ruth Fish*

CLARKS PUBLIC SCHOOL

The Clarks school district was organized in 1871. Sarah Allan and Mrs. Martin were the first teachers in the one-room frame structure, located south of the railroad tracks.



The first Clarks Public School building — early 1890

The following excerpts are taken from the District #11 Record Book of Director Wm. McLean, which Mrs. Raymond Dittmer, the former Mildred McLean and granddaughter of William, has in her possession:

"April 2, 1877 ..... Franklin Sweet elected moderator

October 20, 1877 ..... Fred George Senior appointed Treasurer

April 7, 1879 ..... Wm. McLean elected director

A special meeting of District #11 of Clarksville Merrick to be called on Thursday the 23rd day of November 1876 to consider whether W. Noble is entitled to pay for services rendered said district during years 1873-1874. He was entitled to $5.00 compensation for superintending north school house known as school house, No. 3 and $20.00 for services rendered '73-'74.'

The minutes of the meeting showed some discussion ensued before any payment was made to Mr. Noble.

Mildred recalls her father, Verne McLean, saying the schools — No. 2 and 3, whose teachers received less pay than those of school No. 1, were rural schools, one being District #62.

Teachers were hired for a three month term for $75.00 and $120.00.

In 1881, a second school, a two-story structure housing over eighty students was erected on the site, Green Street, where the opera house was later built. In 1885, a principal was hired and the school was extended to the tenth grade which was the beginning of the Clarks High School. The first graduating class, in 1887, consisted of two members.



Clarks Public School — 1922
Teacher — Ellen (Sweet) Sloan

The third school house, a two-story brick with eight rooms, was built in 1888 on the present school house site.

Baseball and track were offered as the first sports in 1900. In 1901, the Clarks Public School became an accredited twelve-grade institution. The first Alumni Banquet was held in 1903. The first football team began in 1905.

Practice fire drills were held just as they are today. One day in the early 1900's, the janitor wanting to make the drill realistic, started a smudge in the coal bucket which created quite an excitement.

The third school house was torn down to make way for a new building in 1917. The new gymnasium and K-3 classrooms were added in 1958. In 1972, another addition was completed which houses the office, elementary library, remedial reading room, teachers' lounge and classroom for grades four through six.

In 1981, school enrollment totaled 236 with thirty-one graduating seniors, one of the largest classes to graduate for many years.

CLARKS NURSERY SCHOOL

In 1965, Mrs. Clark Caley, and Mrs. Jack Wilson, organized the first Clarks' Nursery School. They held classes twice weekly in the Methodist Church basement. Mrs. Philip Kufeldt taught classes from 1967-1971. In 1971, Mrs. James Helgoth and Mrs. Dwight Strobel saw need for continuation of nursery school. Mrs. Wayne Burbank and Sherri Kelly were engaged as teachers. Mrs. Burdette



Clarks Nursery School
1980-81

Church and Mrs. Walter D. Beck taught from 1972 through 1977. Nursery school was then held in the old District #7 schoolhouse located behind the present Clarks Public School building.

In 1977-78 school year, Mrs. Sterling Anderson took over the teaching duties and the nursery school took on a new name, Clarks Kiddie College. The 1980-81 nursery school mothers worked for a year and half trying to locate a permanent building for the school. The library basement was decided upon after speaking to the library board members and getting their approval. With the help of many volunteers, the library basement took on a new face with work completed a short time before opening day.

Mrs. Sterling Anderson is presently the teacher. There are twenty children in Clarks Kiddie College for the 1980-81 school term and are presently paying $15 per month tuition. There are still some projects to be completed, but hopefully there will be many more classes that will pass through these doors and these projects will be completed with their help. *Submitted by Pat Urkoski*

RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

District #16, formed in 1872, was located north of the Fairview Cemetery on the 'Nick' Rodewald land, Section 8, Township 15, Range 4.

Whenever there was a burial in Fairview, the funeral procession would drive through the schoolyard and the children would take a few minutes from their studies to watch.

The district was dissolved April 30, 1962 and the territory added to School Districts #6 — Silver Creek, and #11 — Clarks, Merrick County. The second structure which had replaced the original building was purchased by Frank Konwinski, Sr. for hog housing.

District #55 was formed in 1887 with the school located in the Southwest corner of Northwest Quarter of Section 12, Township 15, Range 5 which is a part of the present Richard Johnson farm. When the district was dissolved in February 1956, the territory was added to District #11 and the school building was moved to District #11 Clarks Public School where it is being used as a tractor shed and houses supplies.

District #61 was formed April 12, 1911, in Section 21, Township 15, Range 4 when Herman Dittmer gave the land for a school so his daughter, Elsie Dittmer (Regan), would not have so far to school. This land on which the school was built was given with the understanding that when it was no longer used for a school it would revert back to Herman's possession. The district was dissolved February 20, 1956, and the territory annexed to District #11. After the school was closed the building was bought by Fred H. Dittmer.

District #62 was formed April 1, 1913, by portions of land taken from District #11, #61, and #16, and dissolved February 20, 1956, with territory added to District #11. Prior to 1913, this school was a part of the Clarks Public School system.

SCHOOL DISTRICT #7

On March 5, 1873, School District #7 was organized and its boundaries laid out. In 1871, C.B. Hartwell deeded one acre of land from his farm, and for many years it was known as the Hartwell School.

Teachers were contracted to teach for a period of several months with wages $25 or $30 per month. Beginning in 1900, school was held for nine consecutive months.

Many years it was hard to collect tax moneys and it was sometimes necessary for the district to borrow money or issue bonds and the teachers had to wait as long as three months to collect their wages.

School was held in the same building all the years the district existed. In 1886, a stone foundation was laid. Later a hardwood floor was put in, walls plastered and the building was painted. In 1892, a flag pole was erected.

In 1900, a cyclone cellar was built, also a barn to replace the hitching posts. A large school bell was installed in 1906.

During the years, three generations of several families in the district attended District #7, until the



District #7

district was dissolved February 20, 1956, and it was annexed to District #11, Clarks, Nebraska. The old school house was moved to town and sits east of the Clarks school.

I have a list of teachers who taught from 1886 through 1956 (seventy years). We also have a director's census of the children who were of school age, from the time the school was organized. *Submitted by Mrs. Charles Kohl*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #15

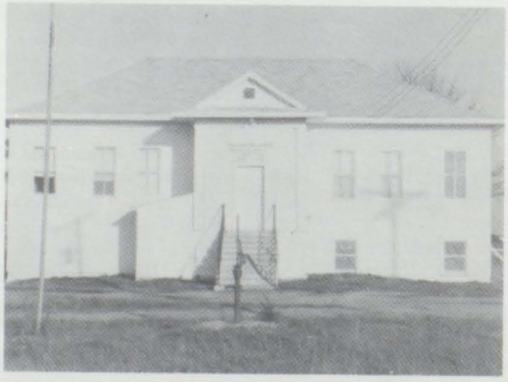
Pleasant Hill, formerly known as Woods School, is located three miles west and three miles north of the north edge of Clarks. It was formed November 1, 1871, with eighteen children attending from the families of Balcom, Clayton, Shively, Stovin and Woods. The structure was a one-room building.

In 1916 a two-room structure was built. The north room was used for elementary and the south one, which includes a stage, was used for the high school. Correspondence courses were taken by the high school students along with their daily lessons to obtain all the courses they needed. Since many of the students rode horses to school, in 1924 a barn was built to accommodate twelve head of horses.

In 1936 three teachers were hired and that year a full basement was created. Neighboring country districts sent pupils to Pleasant Hill for their high school education. Ninth and tenth grades were offered every year and in 1932 the twelfth grade was held. The high school was discontinued in June, 1945.

Two sets of four generations of John Lumadue's family have attended: all his children including Annie Margaret Lumadue Beck, Walter L. Beck, Billy Beck, LeAnne and Stephen Beck and also Julia Lumadue Williams, Darwin Williams, Marlene Williams Friedricksen, Debra and Donna Friedricksen, Karen Williams Miotke, Douglas and Nancy Miotke.

The present school board members are Thomas



District #15 Pleasant Hill
One of the very few country schools still in operation.

Lesiak, Richard Evers and Mary Fritz. There are twelve students currently attending from the Evers, Fritz, Helgoth, Lesiak, Moitke and Phelps families. Their teacher is Mrs. Terrie Flodman of Hordville, Nebraska. *Submitted by Mary L. Fritz*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #25

District #25 was known as the Baird School. The boundaries and organization of the district were on March 16, 1872. Some of the land and property had been set over in District #5 and District #11 in 1903-1906.

The school house burned in 1903 and a new school house was built, so school was held during the summer of 1903. The desks and seats were double — two children in each seat. The school was heated with a coal heater.

Teacher, Maude Woodhouse, hung a gallon pail filled with water and coffee grounds on a wire inside the heating stove so at noon there was hot coffee to drink. How good it tasted! One day the wire broke and put the fire out.

The County Superintendent came to visit once or twice a year; she would sometimes have a story for us. She drove a horse and buggy. If it was during the noon hour she fed the horse its oats from a nose bag. We children loved to watch it eat.



District #25

There were between thirty and forty children in school and all would play together. In the winter time we were allowed to cross the road to the hay meadow where the larger children would make a huge 'fox and goose' ring in the snow. When it was too cold or stormy in the winter time to play outside we would play "clap-in and clap-out' in the school house.

The school was maintained until in February 20, 1956, they were forced to be annexed into District #11. *Submitted by Edith Lindgreen and Ruth Fish*

LIONS CLUB

The Clarks Lions Club was organized in 1942, by A.T. Holcomb, and was chartered on May 7, 1942, with seventeen charter members. Of the seventeen charter members, only one, Frank W. Schuldt, is still living.

In 1947, the club purchased the building which now houses the club rooms and the United States Postoffice. Much remodeling and renovation has taken place over the years, with the most recent the installation of new fronts on both the club rooms and the postoffice.

The club rooms are made available to many groups such as the senior citizens and religious groups, as well as to individuals for receptions, anniversaries, etc.

The main function of the Lions Club is that of a Service Organization, and the primary fund-raising activity of the Clarks Club is the annual pancake feed. Proceeds from this activity are donated to Leader Dogs For The Blind, The Sight and Hearing Foundation, located in Omaha, and most recently The Bahr Project, whose main purpose is to detect hearing deficiencies in small children. In addition, donations are made to local sports groups and the local school.

The Lady Lions were formed in 1945. They are very active, and through their contributions, much renovation and remodeling is accomplished.

The Clarks Lions Club holds a business meeting the fourth Thursday of each month, and a social meeting, with the ladies in attendance, the second Thursday of each month. The present club has a membership of twenty-six and current dues are $20.00 per year. *Submitted by Robert and Gail Strickland*

MASONIC LODGE

On August 8th, 1884, a group of men met in Clarks to form a lodge of Masons. Most of the men in this group were Masons who were members of other lodges. They had moved to the Clarks area during this period of rapid settlement and were aware of the advantages of belonging to an organization based on the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. June 24th, 1885, Solar Lodge became the 134th lodge chartered in Nebraska.

The meetings were held each month during the time of the full moon so the members would have light to travel by. After the automobile became an accepted means of travel, the night of the regular meeting was changed and the lodge now meets on the second Tuesday. In 1903, the present location at the corner of Green and Amity streets was acquired and the meetings have been held there regularly since that time. The building is shared with Ivy Chapter #210, Order of Eastern Star.

The principle of "Relief" was used extensively during the early years with loans and gifts being made to members and their families during times of sickness and distress. More than one funeral has been paid from lodge funds. At the present time, financial support for The Masonic Home at Plattsmouth and The Children's Home in Fremont are the main obligations.

1981 membership records show forty-eight members. Six of these have belonged to lodge more than fifty years. Over the years, Solar Lodge has served its purpose well and the members are proud of their lodge, Solar Lodge #123. *Submitted by Phil Foulk*



Masonic and Eastern Star Hall

EASTERN STAR

In 1887, the first Eastern Star Chapter was organized in Clarks and called Ivy Chapter 29. The chapter was discontinued as all of their records were destroyed by fire. On November 15, 1907, several who had been members of that chapter gathered in the Masonic Hall to form another chapter. On June 4, 1908, Hattie M. Scott of Stromsburg, as Deputy Grand Matron, constituted the chapter Ivy Chapter #210 and installed the officers. Meetings were held Friday on or before the full moon as those were the horse and buggy days and travel was best at that time. At present, the chapter meets on the third Monday.

In 1908, the chapter purchased their first musical instrument, an Estey organ for $20. A piano was bought in 1934 for $70.

The Eastern Star and Past Matrons Club have worked with the Masons and assisted financially with improvements in the Masonic Hall and Recreation Room. The Chapter Room also has an electric organ and the new electric signet was installed in 1950. The chapter has helped with the Masonic Home at Plattsmouth and the Children's Home in Fremont by sending gifts or money each year. The members donate to Shriner's Hospital for crippled children, the Masonic Home Building Fund, and are credited 100% on International Temple Fund.

The chapter has been honored by having these members appointed to serve in the state: Ruth Schuldt, Edith Abel, Mary McLean, Selma Ferguson, Verna Schlondorf, LeRoy Dexter, and Gae Beckstrom.

In August, 1944, Winifred Adelson and Selma Buss organized the Past Matrons Club. *Submitted by Ruth Schuldt*

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

The V.F.W. Post 4832 was chartered in December 1958, with forty-six charter members. The first meeting place of the club was the Union Pacific Depot. Later, the members purchased the Pollard Hardware Store and remodeled it and added a kitchen and dance floor. In 1972, the club purchased the old Miller Theater and remodeled it, doubling its size. In 1981, the club has 198 members, fifty-five of which are life members.

The present Commander is Roger Luebbe with Frank Bell assuming the duties in June 1981.

This club is a service organization and has donated money and equipment to school projects, community events and national affairs. A supply of wheelchairs and crutches are always available to those in need. *Submitted by Jim Glasgow*



Veterans of Foreign Wars

V.F.W. AUXILIARY

Our auxiliary was established on a winter evening at the William Douglas home on January 29, 1959.

In April our auxiliary, which was located in the former Pollard Hardware building, was ready for all activities. During the years of community service, we have worked on bake sales, membership suppers, ice cream socials, sold and donated flags, printed and sold a cook book, provided lunch stands at various sales, held record hop fund drives and served meals for local organizations. Every Christmas baked goods are sent to our service men, as well as the Grand Island Veteran's Home and the Veteran's Hospital. A donation is also sent to the V.F.W. National Home. Elsie Miller, our Gold Star Mother, is also honored throughout the year.

The Clarks V.F.W. Auxiliary is also active in various community services such as: donations and purchasing of equipment for our rescue unit, park, pool, school, library and girl's and boy's ball teams. We also offer an annual scholarship to a Clarks' senior.

Our current membership for 1981 is forty-eight. Present officers are: Barbara Luebbe, President; Margaret Bittinger, Sr. Vice-President; Helen Larsen, Jr. Vice-President; Maxine Sundberg, Secretary and Historian; Elva Church, Treasurer; Pat Ksiazek, Chaplain; Alice A. Beck, Conductress; . Delores Anderson, Guard; Loretta Pollard, Patriotic Instructor; Marlene Douglas, Color Guard; Janet Engel, Color Guard; Ruth Douglas, Color Guard; Laverna Dittmer, Trustee; Rosella Starostka, Trustee; Mary Douglas, Trustee.

Our goal is continued service to our veterans, and the opportunity to work with our community in its growth, and service to the people in our area. *Submitted by Barbara Luebbe*

"RESEARCH CLUB"

In November 1898, a study club was organized choosing the name "Edelsinn", a German word meaning "True nobleness". The objects of the club were: mutual mental improvement, research and pleasure. The membership was limited to twenty-five ladies in order that they could be entertained conveniently in their homes.

Mrs. Charlotte Mitchell was the first president; Mrs. Jessie Mote, vice president; and Mrs. Jane Richardson, secretary.

The motto: "Be noble and the nobleness that lies in other men, sleeping, but never dead, will rise in majesty to meet thine own," by Lowell is still used by the club today. Their flower is the pansy and colors are purple and gold.

During World War I the club name was changed to "Research Club". They meet the second Thursday except in June, July and August.

For several years the program committee has chosen a topic and a moderator for each meeting. Each member contributes something pertaining to each topic.

At the present time there are twelve active members and the Clarks' ministers' wives are honorary members. Membership in 1981 includes: Mrs. Oscar Anderson, Mrs. C.R. Caley — program chairman, Mrs. Elwyn Craig, Mrs. Alfred Ficken — treasurer, Mrs. Linord Johnson — program committee, Mrs. Robert Lindahl, Mrs. Arthur Miller — president, Mrs. Ronald Miller, Mrs. Arthur Schlondorf — program committee, Mrs. Henry Schlondorf — secretary, Mrs. Frank Schuldt — vice president, and Violet Terry.

The club contributes to local community activities and charitable organizations. In memory of deceased members a book is placed in the Clarks Library. *Submitted by Verna Schlondorf*

"ALWAYS BUSY CLUB"

The Always Busy Club originated from members belonging to the Platte Valley Extension Club which organized in 1939. In 1945 the Lucky Ladies Club and Platte Valley Club combined members to make a more interesting group. This club disbanded in 1953.

In 1954 a group of ladies met to reorganize a club, not affiliating with the county extension office, but to be known as the Always Busy Club.

The club grew and in 1959 twenty-five members answered to roll call. It was too large a group for most homes, so the meetings were held in District #25 school house. After joining the Clarks School District, the school house was bought by interested members of the community, and until recently was used for club meetings, community card parties and other gatherings. It was in need of many repairs, so was sold at auction to Lee Huston.

'Always Busy' this club has been the past years. Lessons were given by club members on crocheting, macrame, rug making, sewing and many other nifty craft ideas. Making favors for the rest homes has been one of their projects. The club also gives to charitable organizations. Members are remembered with gifts in times of sorrow and joy.

In April, the last meeting before fall, the club plans a tour. Many interesting places have been visited.

The club now has eleven members and the meetings are held in their homes. The present officers are: President — Louise Hannappel; Vice President — Laveta Williams; Secretary — Lucille Wruble; and Treasurer — Edith Lindgreen. *Submitted by: Louise Hannappel*



Senior Citizens of Clarks — **Back** — Clara Graves, Dorothy Hahn, Pearl Shenk, Rose and Frank Betts, Evelyn Richards, Evelyn Freeland. **Front** — Mary Arney, Evelyn Swedenberg, Violet Terry, Mary Burrus, Florence and Oscar Anderson.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Yes, Clarks has its Senior Citizens. We organized in January 1970. We meet twice a month in the Lions Hall; one meeting is a covered dish dinner at noon and the other meeting is just in the afternoon.

We are a self-supporting group, and to raise money to pay our bills we tie quilts, have bake sales, and white elephant sales.

For the Bi-Centennial celebration in Clarks, we made a quilt and sold numbers, to help us pay our bills.

Of course we all enjoy the eating part of it, and we do fun things too. We play cards, bingo and dominoes. Once a year we take a tour some where and we treat ourselves to a meal out with the money we have earned during the year.

Last year we invited the Silver Creek Senior Citizens to join us for a covered dish dinner, which was enjoyed by us all.

We have made lap throws for our shut-ins, made tray favors for the hospital and the homes. We make plates of cookies at Christmas time for our shut-ins in Clarks.

Since 1970 we have had sixteen vacant chairs in our group, which makes us very sad, but we continue to keep our senior citizens active and keep searching for new things to do, and to keep busy. *Submitted by Evelyn Richards*

"SANDBURR SORORITY"

Sandburr Sorority, an organization for farmwives, came into being one hot evening in July 1967, at the home of Sally Beck with twelve members making up the club. Presently there are sixteen members with four being charter members. The charter members are Laurie Williams, Marlene Friedrichsen, Arlis Phelps and Judy Helgoth.

The organization's purpose was to help in the community, do charitable projects, and have family outings and interesting learning club lessons.

The sorority has done several charitable projects; from donating clothing and food to various needy organizations and families, and sponsoring and helping with activities for the sick and the senior citizens, to fund raising projects for rescue unit and playground equipment. During the Clarks Centennial, we had the country store, which contained memories of the past, having lessons dealing with tatting, rug making, weaving, crocheting and soap making with a old time piano musical backround. We had the cracker barrel right on down to the pickle barrel. You could purchase homemade crafts, baked items and antiques, with the funds being donated to the Clarks swimming pool.

We have had lessons dealing with crafts, and lectures from various ranges of resource persons. We have had several educational outings.

Our family activities include bowling, skating parties, family picnics and holiday parties. The children have had special programs geared to their interests.

The club continues to grow by doing activities which involve the family, each other and the community. *Submitted by Judy Helgoth*



PEACE PIPE PRESENTATION

— Ronald Glasser, present owner of the Junction Ranch site, is being presented the peace pipe that was given to T.J. Hartwell's father, C.B. Hartwell, by a Pawnee Indian chief. The pipe was given to Mr. Glasser by Mrs. Meta Key, a grand daughter of C.B. Hartwell, and her great grandson, Thomas E. Kelly, as a token of appreciation for Mr. Glasser's efforts in erecting several historical markers around Clarks, in 1976; including one at the Junction Ranch site, and another on Hartwell's grave, in Fairview Cemetery. This presentation, on Dec. 23, 1976, passed on a legacy of friendship and appreciation. *Thomas E. Kelly Collection*



JUNCTION RANCH HISTORICAL MARKER

— One of several historical markers erected in the Clarks area, in 1976; this one being placed on the site of Junction Ranch. Also shown here is the peace pipe, that was presented to Daisy Hartwell's grandfather, C.B. Hartwell, by a Pawnee Indian chief. The approximate location of C.B. Hartwell's grave, in Fairview Cemetery, was also marked at this time. *(photo by Ronald Glasser) Thomas E. Kelly Collection*

CATTARAGUS

The area of land known as Cattaragus is located northwest of Clarks in Section 19 Township 15N Range 5W in Merrick County. In October 1886, its owner, Mr. Ed L. Peet, had the land surveyed and sectioned into a town. History records that in those early days of Merrick County people generally believed the railroad would come through this property. Streets and avenues were plotted to be sixty-six feet wide and were then known as Main Street, Clarks Avenue, Evans Street, Park Avenue, Miller Avenue, Central Avenue, and Peet Street. Lots and blocks were plotted and sold to various families. Properties were bought and sold many times. The owner's visions of a thriving town were never fulfilled as the railroad located elsewhere. At the present time the "town" of Cattaragus is owned by Mr. and Mrs. James Helgoth. This couple and their children presently reside on Peet Street. (Refer to the James Helgoth story.)

Atlases published in both 1885 and 1899 record Central City's present Seventeenth Avenue as Cattaraugus Avenue.

Interesting to note are the two different pronunciations of Cattaragus: kat e răg us, ka tăr e gus.

CLARKS DISASTERS

"An Appalling Calamity — A Large Portion OF The Village of Clarks Destroyed By Fire" — Central City Courier, Thursday, August 2, 1894.

"Following upon the destructive hot winds of last Thursday came the most destructive fire that has ever taken place in Merrick County. Perhaps half of the business property of our neighboring town of Clarks went up in flames last Monday morning at about 5 o'clock. The fire originated in an old granary back of J.C. Douglas' billiard hall, and is said, by some, to have been caused by lightning, but no one appears to be certain about it. The town has but little fire protection, except for hydrant connection with the Union Pacific tank but it is of limited capacity. The burned parts take in nearly all of the block north of the depot and a small section of the east side of the next block west."

"Cyclone Hits Clarks" — Clarks Enterprise, Friday, May 11, 1928

"A terrible cyclone hit Clarks on Wednesday evening, May 2, 1928, at 5 p.m. where damage to building and dwellings was estimated at $150,000. A black cloud of dirt was first noticed in the southwest traveling north when it suddenly turned east and swept the town. There were a considerable number of people on the street. The cyclone picked up buildings, telephone poles and big, cottonwood trees. Many farms were partially destroyed ("W. Feehan, James Booth, M. Shonsey's cattle ranch, Fred Brown home and Fred Philbrook Place.) This was all done in a period of less than three minutes. Many people visited Clarks in their autos to view the ruins. Traffic cops were utilized at intersections. At one time cars were lined on the Lincoln Highway for a mile or two on either side of Clarks. Many homes will have to be rebuilt completely. Many buildings of business were unroofed, fronts blown down, and plateglass windows broken. Mrs. O.A. Bittinger, Mrs. W.J. Pollard and two teachers, Miss Jones and Miss Corman were downtown in the storm. Miss Corman was rolled an entire block before being rescued. Mrs. Bittinger and the other ladies lay upon the paving hanging onto nearby tree sprouts to stay them. Nearly every residence north of the Union Pacific tracks was damaged."

"1967 Flood"

A rain shower of .60 on May 27 was the beginning of a twenty-day period of excessive rains which resulted in the flood of 1967. Ronald Glasser's calendar records show that for the period ending June 15, a total of nineteen inches of rain had fallen.

Verne McLean's diary verifies the heavy amounts and also states that on June 14 everything was surrounded by water. The McLean's home, which was engulfed by water, was vacated and the family stayed with their daughter, Mrs. Raymond Dittmer, until the water began subsiding, June 17.

The townspeople were busy sandbagging trying to keep the water from going beyond the railroad ditch and completely inundating the main street of the village. The young people were enjoying wading from the library westward which was due to flooding from the west.



Main Street — Flood of 1967



Looking toward Clarks from Overpass on Highway 92
Flood of 1967



A residential area during the flood of 1967.

PLATTE VALLEY AERIAL SPRAYING INC.

Platte Valley Aerial Spraying Inc. is a family owned and operated business near Clarks with me, Robert Brown, flying the applications of herbicides, insecticides and some fertilizers. My wife Judy (Zoucha) does all necessary flagging and bookkeeping and my two older daughters, Pamela, 13, and Patricia, 10, refuel and wash the windshields while Audra, 8, and Molly Jo, 6, refuel me with coffee or iced tea. Little Jeffry, 3, is the future replacement for my seat.

My aerial spraying business began in 1974 with a Cessna Ag-Truck and Jim Wruble as my partner. In 1978, I bought Jim's share of the business.

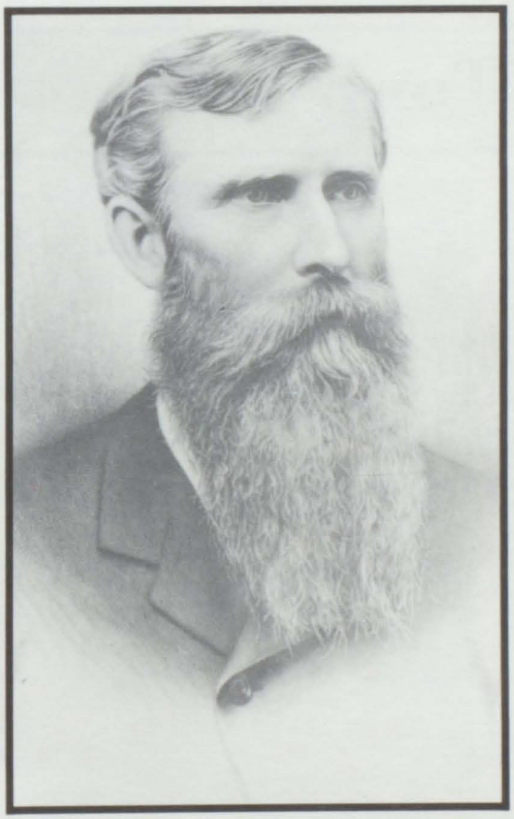
In 1974, I took special training at Ag-School with Don Bair of York.

The Ag-Cat replaced the Ag-Truck in August 1980. The handling and response is much better than a single-wing and is approximately twice the capacity with a 450 horsepower engine and maximum legal weight of 2000 pounds.

Being farm-oriented, I am aware of the farmers' needs and their many frustrations in dealing with the elimination of insects and weeds. *Submitted by Robert Brown*



The Robert Brown family pictured with the Ag-Cat used in their Aerial Spraying business.



Silas H.H. Clark, 8th President of the Union Pacific Railroad. The Village of Clarks was named in his honor. Photo used with permission Union Pacific Railroad Museum.

THE URKOSKI BAND

The Urkoski Band first started playing for the public over twenty-five years ago. Their very first public appearance was a wedding party for Louis and Alyce (Bialas) Yrkoski. From this time on they played almost every Saturday afternoon and evening and quite often on Fridays and Sundays as well. Most of the time they played in the local vicinity of Clarks. On occasion, they played in Kansas and quite regularly through the years they played in Omaha. And every year they played for the Nebraska Polka Days celebrations in Omaha.

The original members of the band were John Urkoski, Andrew Urkoski, Pete Urkoski, Lonnie Urkoski and Ronnie Urkoski. Occasionally, at five years of age, Allan Urkoski would appear with the band with some chording on the piano, and drew a lot of attention!

For a short span of time the Urkoski's joined with the Rinkol Band and continued playing for many weddings and get-togethers. In 1970, Gene Urkoski took over the Urkoski Orchestra management and they formed a new band consisting of Gene Urkoski and Gary Urkoski on trumpets, Allan Urkoski and Andrew Urkoski on bass fiddle and bass guitar, Lonnie Urkoski on clarinet, Peter Urkoski on drums, and Ben Dush on the accordian. The band continued playing with these members until sickness and the deaths of Peter Urkoski and Ben Dush. Presently, Gene Urkoski of Clarks and Gary Urkoski along with Lonnie Urkoski, Jr. and three area musicians are keeping the band going strong. *Submitted by Allan Urkoski*

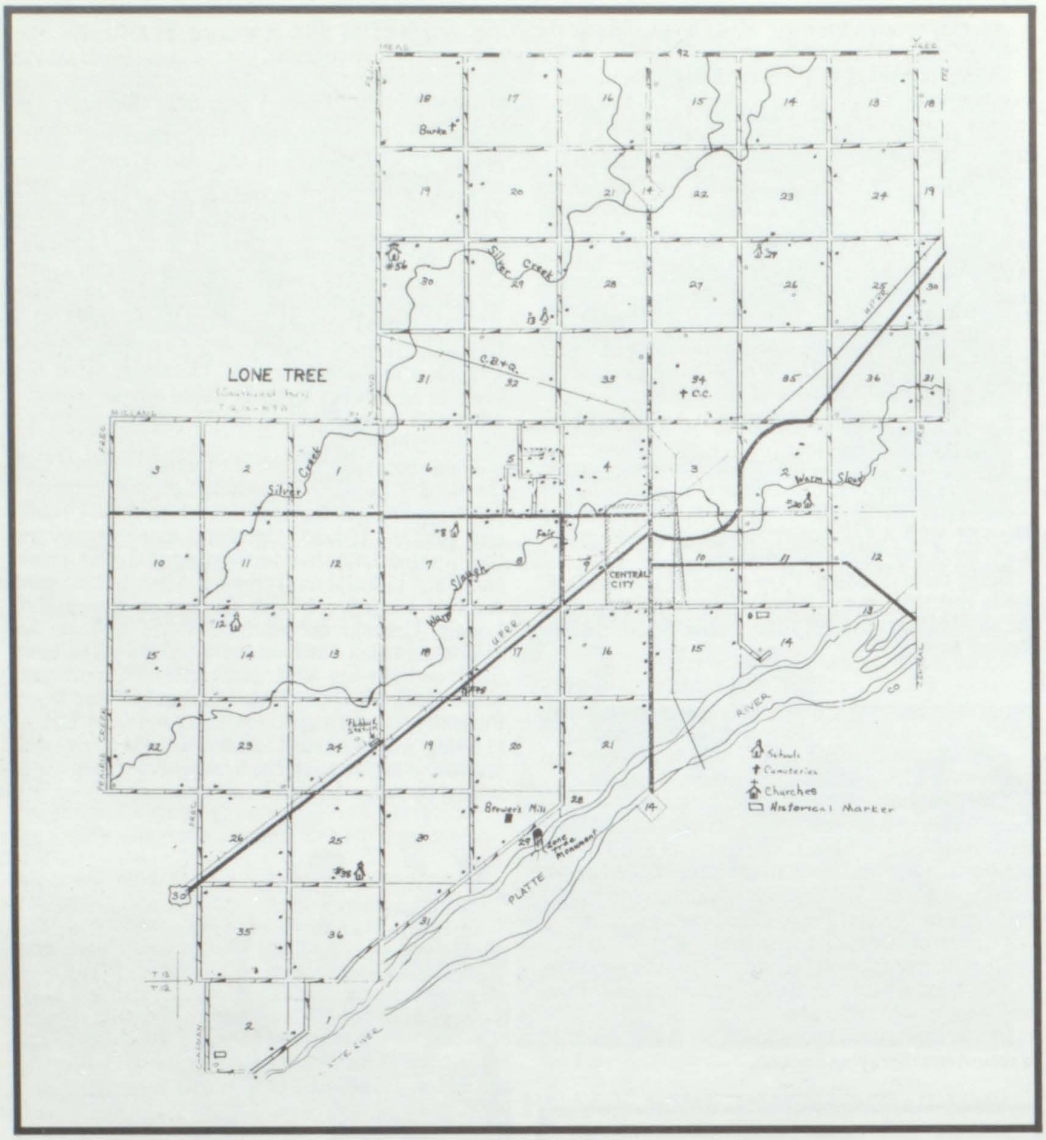


Urkoski Bank — Gene, Andrew, Gary and Peter Urkoski, Ben Dush, Lonnie and Allan Urkoski





Fire Department — 1981
Fire Chief, Don Branting, Assistants, Tom Spires and Tim Bittinger — Officers, Leroy Geier and Asa L. Pollard



Lone Tree Township

This township was named for the historic Lone Tree on the Mormon Trail, the story of which is told elsewhere. It is the south central township in Merrick County, surrounding the present town of Central City.

Originally, there were three voting precincts in Merrick County. On July 7, 1871, the county commissioners voted to divide the east precinct into two — Silver Creek and Clarksville, change the name of the middle precinct to Lone Tree, and change the name of the west precinct to Chapman. The following people were named as the first officials of Lone Tree (or number 3) Precinct: W.E. Marsh, assessor; R. Eatough, road supervisor; Ephraim Bockes and S.T. Smedley, constables; Wm. T. Eatough, Henry McCain, and Alpheus Parks, election judges; and Ed Parker and E.T. Smedley, election clerks.

Following are some reminiscences of an early-day resident of Lone Tree Township, Mary Eatough Wolcott. Also included in this section are miscellaneous stories of rural school districts, cemeteries, clubs, and the various entities of the county seat town of Central City. *Submitted by Township Chairman, Ellen Campbell*

MARY EATOUGH WOLCOTT

These are reminiscences of Mary Eatough Wolcott, first non-Indian girl born in Merrick County. The Eatoughs were involved in the history of more than ninety years of Merrick County's century and a quarter of existence. Mary Eatough was born August 25, 1864, and passed away November 30, 1956. Submitted by her younger son, George Wolcott.



Mary Eatough Wolcott

"Earliest history of Merrick County centers about an old cottonwood tree. For many years it was a landmark on the military route of the Western Stage Company. It was situated on the north bank of the Platte River. A monument designating the site was erected in 1915.

Trunk and branches of the old tree were covered with names and initials. An early settler said he copied some of the hieroglyphics and among them were the letters JV for James Vieregg, then a blur which he thought was the initials for Miss Martin who was later Mr. Vieregg's wife. Also JK and Vi were very clearly cut and they no doubt were for John Keyes and his wife who were grandparents of the Keyes families.

It is said Indians held their councils under that old tree. It fell victim of the great storm of 1865; then it was dead. It had been weakened by campfires built beneath it and by wounds of many initials cut in its bark.

At Lone Tree the stage company built a station of cottonwood logs in 1858. In those days weekly trips were made across the plains with four-horse coaches or with buckboards. Lone Tree was one of the twenty-mile stopping places. From 1858 until 1869 early settlers had no permanent station.

From records and from memory of old-timers we learn that James Vieregg was Merrick County's first settler. In August of 1859 he was returning from the gold fields of California and stopped in Hall County to visit his brother, John. On September 5, 1859, he came into Merrick County and drove a stake which surveyors later located as Southwest Quarter Section 5 Township 11 North, Range 8 West. Two travelers from Douglas County established their claim soon after this. They were Jess Shoemaker and Charles Eggerton. "Shoemaker's Point" was only a short distance from the present town of Chapman. It was the site of the first post office in the county; that was in 1861. Before that time settlers in the middle or eastern parts of the county had their mail directed to Columbus and from there it was forwarded to them through the pockets of stage drivers.

In 1858, the Nebraska Legislature passed an act defining the boundaries of established counties. They fixed the county seat of Merrick County at Elvira. The speaker of the house of representatives named it for his wife and no one seemed to know where it was located, except possibly on a paper in his office in Omaha. In 1864, Shoemaker's post office was abandoned and a post office was begun at Brewer's Ranch. The advent of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1866, caused all stage route offices to be closed by 1869. Brewer's Ranch post office was moved to Lone Tree station, now Central City.

At the time the railroad was built, Lone Tree consisted of little more than a turntable and a building where railroad hands could obtain a supply of liquor. Lone Tree furnished the railroad with much of the wood they used for fuel in the engines. I remember ricks of cordwood men had cut and hauled to the depot during winter months.

Pioneers and early settlers made their homes near the river for several reasons. Through trails and wagon roads followed the river where they could get water for people and livestock while they were digging wells and building homes. Along the river and on little islands there was an abundant supply of wood for building houses and for fuel. The timber was mostly cottonwood with some cedar, ash, and elm. Also soil was more fertile near streams. Usually the homes were two rooms built of cottonwood logs and chinked with mud.

Water from the first wells was drawn with a bucket attached to a rope or a pole with a hook on the end. Tallow candles furnished night lights. Stables for animals were made of poles covered with coarse grass or straw. Later when timber became scarce sod houses were built. Wild game was quite plentiful. There were prairie chickens, wild geese and ducks, fish from the river, and an occasional antelope or deer.

The majority of the pioneers located in the springtime or early summer and thus raised some sod corn to feed their livestock which usually consisted of a team of horses or oxen, a cow, and a few chickens.

Government freight trains, drawn by mules or oxen, hauled the provisions for men and feed for the

livestock to the forts on to the west. Some groceries could be bought at the Jason Parker ranch where the stage stopped.

The first schoolhouse in Merrick County was erected in 1866. It was built of logs and had a sod roof. Miss Ellen Abbott was teacher in District #1. The term was probably about three months, for which she was paid the sum of $33. It was not unusual to have to walk three or four miles to attend school. I first went to school in the summer of 1871 and the only schoolhouse in our area was located in the north side of the road about a mile east of Central City, which was then Lone Tree. There was no school in Lone Tree so pupils from that village attended the same one-room school which I did.

Those were the "good old days" of hoop skirts and shaker sunbonnets with their long capes. Men had high-top boots with a red, blue or green band just below the knee; and there was the inevitable boot-jack. Little girls had linsey-woolsey dresses, pantalets, and copper-toed shoes.

Richard Eatough was my grandfather. He was born in Lancaster, England. His father was a gamekeeper for the king. As an adult Richard was a mill carpenter. He and his wife, Mary, had a family of one daughter and three sons, the second of which was James, my father. Richard's first wife died and he later married Margaret. A daughter, Sarah, was born to this union and Sarah was the mother of Frank, Lewis, and Roy Parker. [The Parkers were prominent Merrick County residents as was Sarah's grandson, the late Harold Parker.]

Richard Eatough's family migrated to the United States with a group of Mormons and as they traveled westward through Nebraska the youngest son died and was buried in Hamilton County. My father told me that years later he tried to locate the burial place but was not able to do so.

The Eatough family continued on to Salt Lake City with the Mormons where Richard helped build the temple; the sons helped with farming. James, my father, was then a young man about 25 years of age. Sarah, his half-sister, was a lively, attractive girl in her teens. Soon James obtained work driving a freighter between Salt Lake City and Denver, then between Denver and Omaha.

In 1862, by means of James driving a freighter, he was able to help the family leave Salt Lake City and the Mormons. They spent the first winter living in a cave along the Platte River, a few miles from Lone Tree. When the family was settled, James went to Omaha where he left his work as a freighter and obtained other work.

The following spring Grandfather dug a saw-pit and after cutting his timber along the Platte River he hand-sawed it and built a house. He ceiled it with hand-sawed cedar instead of plaster. From cedar trees growing along the river he made an elaborately designed four-post bedstead and several other articles of furniture. Most of the furniture of first settlers was home-made.

It was June of 1863 when my grandfather settled on what was known for many years as the Piper Ranch, about two miles east of Central City. Grandfather Richard Eatough's brother located in Wisconsin. Another brother, Charles, came from Rhode Island and settled on a farm east of Central City, north of Grandfather's farm. Charles Eatough's farm was later acquired by T.B. Hord and was known as the "Home Ranch."

After my father had helped his family leave Salt Lake City and had obtained work in Omaha, he met my mother, Sarah Foot, who had been born in England. Her mother's name was Maria Brickle. Mr. Foot, my mother's father, had been killed while working in a coal mine, as had been her brothers, Aaron and Charles. After her husband's death, my maternal grandmother, Maria Brickle Foot, made her living for many years "keeping lodgers." She remarried and her name was then Maria Belcher, but she was widowed again. She is buried in the Central City cemetery.

As a young woman, my mother, Sarah Foot, had come from England to Nebraska with the Ed Hooper family. The Hoopers continued on to Merrick County but Mother remained in Omaha, working for a time as housemaid for the Hanscoms, a prominent family there. It was in that area that my father met my mother. They were married in Omaha by the Reverend Henry W. Kuhn in 1863 at the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Father had taken a homestead claim about a mile northeast of Grandfather's home by the river. Father brought Mother there the following spring. She had always lived in the city and pioneering was not easy for her. During the summer Father built a house of logs and chinked it with clay mud, but cottonwood boards do not make a good roof and the roof leaked when it rained. Two years later when my father went to Omaha for a load of shingles, Mother said she saw a rainstorm coming so she covered the bed with milk pans. Then she took my baby brother and me and crawled under the bed to keep dry. Father had taken the tarpaulin with him. The trip to Omaha was made with oxen and required from ten days to two weeks.

Mother said she often heard coyotes running around the house and howling at night. When it was necessary for Father to take wheat to be ground into flour to the mill at Fort Calhoun, or to make a trip for supplies that could not be obtained nearer than Omaha, she would usually take the children and stay overnight at Grandfather's. It was a long way to walk and carry a tiny baby with another scarcely two years old, and then she would have to sleep on the floor at Grandfather's.

Some groceries could be obtained from the Jason Parker ranch which was then a stage station. Groceries had been freighted there. Just a year or two later a Mr. Lee from Fremont drove a peddler's wagon and sold small articles such as pins and needles; he also sold some dry goods.

The first store in Lone Tree, now Central City, was a grocery owned by Jim Lisk when the Union Pacific railroad was built. Settlers worked all winter cutting and hauling wood to the depot to be burned in train engines. Settlers' wives would send butter and eggs to the store in exchange for groceries. A statement of account I saw some years later was something like this: coffee, sugar, tea, soap, matches, sundries. These "sundries" proved to be drinks, which were sold there also.

One of my earliest recollections was watching the trains of immigrants pass for hours at a time as I sat on the doorstep of our home. In the summer of 1868 it seems that they passed every day, always going west. I distinctly remember seeing sections of the pontoon bridge that was placed across the Platte River near Kearney, being hauled past accompanied by soldiers. Sometimes a man would stop for water from our well or ask for information regarding the Indians or the distance to Fort Kearny.

In those days the Pawnee Indians camped along the Platte River in fall and winter, and went west in the spring to hunt. When in camp there was scarcely a day they did not call on us, especially if the weather was cold or disagreeable. They came four or five in a group, took all available seats, and surrounded the stove where they warmed themselves and dried their moccasins. When the odor of their blankets became too disagreeable, Mother would open the door, stamp her foot for emphasis, and say, "Whisket! Whisket!" which meant "Go! Go!" Of course they would protest and call her a "no good squaw," but they would leave, only to return the next day. One could order them to leave but could not refuse to let them enter.

Sometimes Mother would get a squaw to help her wash, and if the squaw preferred she could take her pay in flour, meat, molasses, or bread. A squaw would work very cheaply when paid in cash. Most settlers had great piles of wood chopped by the squaws during the winter for next summer's fuel.

To tease me one day, a squaw said she would take my baby brother away with her. I was only four then, but I remember snatching her hand and biting her finger as hard as I could. Mother scolded me and the squaw called me a "no good papoose," but she teased me no more.

In spite of their mud tracks on my mother's kitchen floor, and their tendency to take anything on which they could lay their hands, I shall always think kindly of the Pawnee Indians. We missed them when they left us.

In the fall when the Indians came back for winter they usually had quantities of dried buffalo and antelope meat, and buffalo robes. The latter they traded to settlers. An Indian's outer garment was mostly a buffalo hide. It was about 1873 when the U.S. government decided the Indians should stay on their reservation during the winter and not camp along the Platte River. A year later they were sent to Oklahoma. The former Pawnee reservation is now Nance County.

Just before the Union Pacific railroad came through, there was an Indian Agency where the Pawnees received supplies from the government. It was located about three miles northeast of what was then Lone Tree. Bill Howe was the agent and it consisted of a shack filled with flour, some groceries, blankets and such things. It was regarded as a questionable place where gambling and whiskey were not unknown. It remained there only one winter.

My father sold his homestead to Isaac Traver who later sold it to T.B. Hord. Early in the spring of 1870 our family, including Grandmother Belcher, moved to California. It took a week to go to Sacramento by rail. Not finding conditions in California as had been anticipated, we returned to Nebraska the next year. Many times I have heard my father tell that he returned to Merrick County with only ten dollars, a wife, and three small children. There was a vacant house just east of my grandfather's home. It was known as the "White House" and had been the home of the Ed Hoopers with whom my mother had come from England. The Hoopers had moved to Grand Island, so we occupied that "White House."

About forty rods southwest of the farm that was later known as the Hord Home Ranch there was a small cemetery containing about a dozen graves. The only one of those that I remember was that of Mr. Pyles, Mrs. Marsh's first husband. Most of the bodies were removed later.

In the summer of 1871, I attended my first term of school. It was taught by a Mrs. Doolittle, a very refined woman. Those who knew her never forgot her. I attended the same shcool in the winter term that followed, but I stayed at the home of my uncle, Charles Eatough. His farm was the one that later became the Hord Home Ranch. This winter term was taught by Charles Mead, for whom Mead Township was named. Attending this winter term I remember these names: George Bockes, Anna Bockes, Warren Thomas, Etta Thomas, Phoebe Lern, Mary Osterhout, Addie Pierce, Emma Dunovan, Absey Fouts, Jeff Withrow, "Toot" Traver, Carrie Phelps, Carrie Townley, Viola Pyles, Charlie McCarn, "Lum" McCarn, and Joe Eatough. There were some others whose names I do not recall. A number of those pupils came from the village of Lone Tree.

During the summer of 1871, my father had taken a claim for some land on Prairie Island and built a house of sod and logs that was very comfortable during winter but the roof leaked terribly during heavy rains. Four or five other families had settled on Prairie Island in 1871 and 1872. Adjoining our farm on the east lived a couple who had come west to regain their health. The man, a Mr. Kirkpatrick, was well educated but not fitted to make a living in a new country, so decided to return east rather than starve. We rented his place and the house was better than ours with a shingled frame building with two large rooms and a sod annex. We lived there during the blizzard of 1873 and those grasshopper years. I think that Easter blizzard was not as severe on Prairie Island as it was north of the river. Perhaps the trees and brush along the river banks helped break the force of the wind.

Accounts of those grasshopper invasions were not overdrawn; one had to experience them to believe them. There have been many stories of blizzards, grasshoppers, tornadoes, and prairie fires that were experienced by early settlers. If there had not been help from various sources some of the less fortunate people would have surely starved to death.

During the fall of 1872, the first schoolhouse on Prairie Island had been built. The first term was taught by W.H. McCabe. He was followed by Ella Taylor and Emma Rose, who became Mrs. Absey Fouts. Then came Ada Howe, George Caswell, myself, Ellice Parker, and Frank Parker as teachers until 1886. At that time a school term was only three or four months.

It meant very much to people living on Prairie Island when the Platte River bridges were built.

Previously river crossing was difficult and dangerous, especially in the spring when slush ice was flowing. In winter, crossings could be made on the ice. When the water was low in the fall teams could be driven over the river bed. Oxen were used, because of their sure-footedness, to make the first crossings and the route marked with stakes before teams of horses were driven across.

Once in early summer a woman carrying a traveling bag came to our home and begged my father to take her across the north channel of the river in his wagon so that she could walk to the village of Clarks and board a train there. She said she lived in Hamilton County and had learned that her mother living in the east was very seriously ill. From Hamilton County she had walked across the south channel of the river, but the north channel by Prairie Island was much deeper. Father said it was unsafe to cross, but she begged so hard and seemed so genuinely distressed that he finally consented. It was with great difficulty that Father kept the wagon box attached to the wheels as it started to rise and float as they reached the middle of the river. Later we learned that she was one of a counterfeit gang and trying to make her get-away. That was only one of the risks taken in crossing the river before the bridges were completed.

When we realize the hardships, privations, and sacrifices endured by the early settlers, we should appreciate all the good conditions of the present. Those early settlers with courage, initiative, and endurance laid the foundation on which this area has been able to grow and provide the life we now enjoy." *Mary Eatough Wolcott*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #8

Many fond memories still linger with those who attended District #8 School, one and one-half miles west of Central City on Ormsby Road. Lillian Van Zant is one who attended, and she has a picture of the first little schoolhouse with the teacher and pupils. Fred Marsh was county superintendent at the time, and Edna Townsend was the teacher.

In later years, an addition was built onto the original school, making it a two-room schoolhouse. Bathrooms were added later.

Lillian King, one of the teachers, kept a long stick in her desk that she used when necessary. Her desk was an old-fashioned one with a top that could be easily raised to get at the stick.

Many have recalled the plays that were put on by the grown-ups in the district. Everyone who took part in them had a lot of fun.

In the spring of 1966, the school was set on fire in several places and nearly burned to the ground. The mystery of the fires has never been solved. The District #8 children went to school in town a year earlier than the children from other rural schools in the newly consolidated district. *Submitted by Sylvia Senkbile*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #12

District #12 school was organized October 31, 1871. One of the early teachers was Wm. Huxford. The first settlers were Huxfords, Powells, two Nelson families, and Stevens.

At that time, literary meetings were held, pupils taking part in debates, which furthered their education. In later years, PTA meetings were held each month with lunch served after an interesting program. Before churches were established in Central City, services were held in the school.

The school also served to further some of the young men's education. A man teacher would be hired during the winter months of the 90's. A young man from Sweden, Frank Nelson, learned the English language in three winters this way.

Boys would be boys in those days too. Seeing an iceberg in Silver Creek, three or four boys decided to take a ride. All was fun until the noon bell rang and they couldn't dismount without getting wet feet. Then during the year of 1949, in which we had so much snow, one teacher's dad brought her to the west corner, and she walked from there to school in order to hold classes.

The last day of school each year, a picnic was held, with ample food. Ice cream and cake was the highlight of the day. Men played baseball, and various games were enjoyed by the rest.

Our school was dissolved June 5, 1967, with the pupils going into District #4. We all miss the togetherness and fun we neighbors had at District #12. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Nelson*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #13

District #13 rural school was located two miles north of Central City on Highway 14, and one west. Formation was March 6, 1871, with John W. Sparks the first chairman.

The building was attractive, with one large classroom having windows on the east and south sides. On the north was the entryway, with the bell cord, sink, hand pump, and clothes hooks for wraps. Another small room was the supply room. The basement contained a furnace, which was a luxury compared to many schools still using heating stoves. The two little outbuildings served as restrooms until the end.

When consolidation came in 1967, the school house reverted back to the land owner, Dr. H.F. Greving and his wife, Phyllis Smith Greving. In 1969, Dr. Greving moved the building into Central City and remodeled it into a dental clinic. The building is located across the street west of the Methodist Church. Dr. John Ahlschwede purchased it from Dr. Greving in 1974.

A very important social factor went out with consolidation. School picnics, Christmas programs, farewell parties, and other gatherings were greatly missed. The farmers in that era set the annual school picnic as a celebration that their seed corn was in the ground. These picnics featured ball games, sack races, three-legged races, etc. One memorable occasion included spearfishing in the river. Ladies visited, exchanged recipes, and wore their latest "feed sack" creations. Ice cream and cake made the grand finale of the day. *Submitted by Celia Black*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #20

In 1887, T.B. Hord established the Hord Home Ranch. In time, the District #20 school was often referred to as the "Hord Home Ranch School." The Hord children and children of ranch help attended District #20.

The boundary line was changed to include Parker's Island and other boundary changes were made from time to time. Riverside Park area was included.

For several years, beginning in 1904, the school was closed and tuition was paid to enable the pupils to attend school in town. Around 1916, Jane Reeves (Fogland) started teaching at District #20 and taught there for three years.

Some families had from two to four generations involved with the school. It is thought that Lewis Parker was treasurer for over thirty years.

District #20 was dissolved and the territory annexed to District #4 in 1967. *Submitted by Grace McHargue*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #27

District #27 was located three miles north and one and one-half miles east of Central City. It was organized March 23, 1872. After voting four times, a new school house was built in 1929. It was built without any indebtedness or bonds issued in the district.

It was the center for many gatherings. P.T.A. met there each month, with an educational program or entertainment included. Farm Bureau also used the school as a meeting place, and many family gatherings were held there.

In 1967, it was closed, and has since been converted into a lovely home. *Submitted by Francis Johnson*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #48

School District #48 was organized November 8, 1877. Families who had children attending were the Cowells, Minters, Smiths, Benners, Nelsons, Sundbergs, Phelps, Hensleys, Dinges, Hiltons, Shanes, and Kiscolts. The first teacher was a man who was very strict. He whipped the big boys with a stick when they were mischievous.

Most of the children shared double desks. They had to walk to school. Some games they played were "Crack the Whip," "Hide and Seek," ball, and "Andy Over."

Other families who lived in the district later were Ed Smith, Albert Heins, Walter O'Nele, Bob Gilley, Vernon Sidders, Emil Schutt, Julius Schmaltz, Arnold Wilhoft, Henry Hagan, Lee Gillan, Kenny Rankin, Clifford Morrison, Laverne and Norman Streubing, James Newby, Bob Rutherford, Uekers, Bill Eppert, Al Meineke, Ted Catlett, Pete Bengtson, Walter Beck, Harold Benson, Henry Chohon and Lawrence Fishler.

Some of the teachers were Lily Van Housen, Lily Phelps, Kate Smith, Jennie Gaw (Mrs. Jake Benner), Alma (Travis) Wagner, Helen Boelts, Miss Connors, Ethel Sinsel, Adeline Green, Mildred Conkling, Marcella Alexander, Phyllis Bolling, Alvin Erb, Lavonne Hemmingsen, and the last teacher, Sylvia Senkbile.

Each year there was a program at Christmas, and the year ended with a family picnic. The school was transferred to District #4 on June 5, 1967.

Of the original families, only two have descendants still living in the district. They are Mrs. Marjorie Bengtson of the Pete Nelson family, and Charles Benner of the Lewis Benner family. *Submitted by Doris Benner*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #56

On March 5, 1887, District #56 was formed from parts of Districts #13 and #24. The school continued in operation for seventy-three years. Bernice Johns Larsen recalled that there were around twenty-seven students at the time she attended school there in the early thirties. Later the enrollment dwindled. By June 21, 1960, there were only two students remaining, so the district was dissolved and the territory annexed to District #18. Louise Stander was the last teacher.

In the 1920's and '30's, some of the families living in the district were the Henry Bolling, Herman Johns, Orly Smith, Leonard Kuhn, and Nabity families. The teachers included Hazel Stevens, Miss Hopkins, Verna Held Rodysill, and Kathryn Nabity.

The District #56 schoolhouse is now standing in the Roy Glynn farmyard. The Glynns use it as a shop.

NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Though Nebraska Christian High School first convened in September of 1959, the school actually started several years before in the minds and hearts of several men who were convinced of the value of Christian education and had a deep desire to provide this for their own children and those of others with similar convictions.

After much prayer, these concerned parents chose the campus of Nebraska Central College. After years of disuse, the campus needed extensive cleaning, repair, and paint. Many volunteers came to assist in the work.

Over the years, the campus has changed in appearance. In the early years a gymnasium-cafeteria building was built, as well as girls' and boys' dormitories. Later, Hord Hall was torn down and additional classroom facilities added.

Beginning with a student enrollment of thirty-eight in grades 9-12, the school has grown to 155 students in grades K-12.

Walter Ediger served as superintendent from the founding of the school in 1959 until 1973. Glen Davenport from 1974 until 1978, and Don Olson from 1978 until 1980. Richard Musgrave currently serves as administrator. H. Kay Saywer has served in various capacities since the founding of the school, but has always been director of the choir, for which the school is well-known.

Some who were instrumental in the founding of the school were: Joyce Grantham, Harry Hermsmeyer, and Orville Hamer of Scotia, Paul Oswald and Eldon Nickolaus of Aurora, and Carl Kasten of McCook.

The school presently has a nine-member board of directors and a thirty-member advisory council. *Submitted by David Ferris*



Nebraska Central College Administration Building

NEBRASKA CENTRAL COLLEGE

Methodist 1885-1892
Friends 1899-1953

The North Nebraska Conference of the Methodist Church (north of the Platte River and east of the west line of Hall County) in 1884 appointed a commission whose powers were to locate and establish an institution of higher learning.

Northwest of Central City was a section of unoccupied land owned by two parties. The land was a beautiful plateau, at one time offered to the State Legislature of Nebraska for the location of its capitol.

Dr. O.L. Barton of Central City proposed to the citizens of Central City that they purchase this land and tender 320 acres of it to the Methodist Church.

N.R. Persinger, Jas. G. Holden, James Stephen, John W. Sparks, and Orin L. Barton did buy the land and offered it on December 9, 1884. One hundred acres was required for the college, and the rest of the land was to be sold in ten acre lots, separated by pleasant prairie streets.

Dr. J.B. Maxfield became the first president; J.K. Stableton, principal, mathematics and science; Mrs. M.M. Maxfield, preceptress, English and lower academic branches; Mary A. Henry, language; Bertha Morrison, music. The college opened in the fall of 1885, with fifty-five students. From 1886-1889, up to 150 attended. At one time nearly 200 attended. Graduates of its first class, 1889, were Joseph Sparks and George W. Fowler. In 1890 the second and last commencement took place — graduates being Miss Jessie Benton, Henry O. Chapman, and E. Russel Leedom. Fred A. Marsh was one of the first students to enroll.

The school existed one more year and one summer, after which the college closed (1892), the main reason being Lincoln was decided upon for a Methodist University.

In the fall of 1899, the Society of Friends established a college at this location. Fifty years of sponsorship began with Prof. Riley Haworth as president. Succeeding presidents were: Sam Haworth, E. Hadley, Eli Perisho, Floyd Perisho, Stacy McCracken, Homer Coppock, Stephen Myrick and O.W. Carrell (who served for thirty-two years, starting in 1921). Mrs. Carrell (Golda) headed up and taught in the speech and voice departments. Other faithful faculty members who served a great number of years were: M.H. Watson, Milo Crosbie, Julia Crosbie, and Evelynn Mott Schutz.

Because of a decreasing number of students, and the hardships encountered in financing an institution of this kind, Nebraska Central closed in 1953. In 1958, it was merged with the Friends' William Penn College in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Consecrated Christian men and women made noble sacrifices in Nebraska Central College's behalf. Hundreds of students benefited by the instruction and moral discipline which it afforded. Many of its alumni have held positions of high trust and responsibility.

Academy classes existed from Nebraska Central College's beginning until the 1928-1929 school year. Total number of graduates was 314; total number of college graduates was 218. *Submitted by Effie Torpin*



President and Mrs. O.W. Carrell

CENTRAL CITY CEMETERY

The original Central City Cemetery was located on the rise in the south part of town from the vicinity of the present A.L. Nantkes home, south to the present Arvid Stranberg home (in Cowgill's Addition). When these homes were built, casket remains were found, although most of the graves had, by that time, been moved to the present-day cemetery. The Omaha World-Herald carried an article about Central City's pioneer cemetery.

In June, 1877, the newly organized Merrick County Cemetery Association purchased twenty acres of the then Merrick County Fairgrounds for use as a cemetery. The grounds were platted in four blocks, A, B, C, and D. On November 18, 1878, Block A was transferred to the Roman Catholic Church, and has since been maintained by the Catholic parish.

In 1906, a circle of ground in the northwest part of the cemetery was deeded to the Women's Relief Corps for a soldier's monument. Later, this part was sometimes called the Monument Cemetery.

A private burial ground, owned by the Holdens, had existed for some years south of the county cemetery. Around 1915, this was purchased and added to the county property. The main road, at that time, was on the east end and ran south, along Mesner's shelterbelt, to the county road. It was low and muddy, so when the two cemeteries were combined, a new road was constructed at the present location.

On October 17, 1919, the Merrick County Cemetery Association deeded all of its grounds to the city of Central City, and it became the Central City Cemetery.



Burke Cemetery Gates

BURKE CEMETERY

The Burke Cemetery is located three miles west and four and one-half miles north of Central City. My husband James Johnston was caretaker for twenty years.

Henry Burke was owner of the farm where Burke Cemetery is located. On Christmas Day in 1871, his wife Lucinda died. He buried her in a plot in the northeast corner of the family cemetery. Then April 10, 1877, he gave that three acres as the Burke Cemetery Association. For years, only the north half was used. In about 1900, the south half was marked into lots and in 1981 it's nearly full.

The earliest cemetery board members that I know of were Wm. Johnston and Fred Marsh. For many years, Lloyd Nitzel was on the board along with Frank Jefferson. In 1981, it's Carroll Johnston and Elwin Ferris.

The first fence around the cemetery was one built with wooden posts and boards. At that time, there was no road ditch and there was row of hitching posts out by the road, as this was horse and buggy days. In 1919, George Ferris, Sr., sold several lots and got donations to build a woven wire fence. That lasted for years. The new fence there now was donated by Ruth (Emmert) Coy, plus a new gate and yellow brick pillars by the entrance with the words, *Burke Cemetery*, in black.

The accompanying photograph shows the cemetery when the lovely shade trees were still there. These were killed out by Dutch Elm Disease in the 1960's. *Submitted by Vernie Johnston*

"NEIGHBORLY NEIGHBORS"

The Neighborly Neighbors Friendship Club was organized on May 19, 1935. The charter members were Mmes. Verna Deichman, Dorothy Emgarten, Louise Emgarten, Lucille Engel, Wilma Jensen, Ethel Marquis, Minnie Moore, Dean McCullough, Jesse Nelson and Almeda Swanson.

The club was among the first in Merrick County to be organized. Mrs. Verna Deichmann was elected the first Chairman of the county extension clubs, and served in 1937-1938. She attended a meeting at Manhattan, Kansas to get instructions on organizing "Project Work."

An instructor came from Lincoln once a month to give lessons on Project Work. These meetings were held at Hord Hall, with each club choosing two members to take the lessons. Covered dishes were brought for the noon meal, and the county chairman made the coffee. Hostesses were chosen to serve the meal and clean up. Dues were 3¢ yearly per member. Most clubs made rules to serve two foods plus a drink.

Lucille McHargue, who joined in 1939, recalls a lesson on "How to make a comb box out of a two pound cheese box." Myrtle (Anderson) Holtorf remembers a lesson on Christmas Gift Wrapping given by Bertha Hamilton, and also a lesson on "How to make Homemade Toys." One in particular was Jacob's ladder made with wooden blocks. One of the outstanding lessons in the memory of Viola Ohlman was how to cut and handle flowers so that they would stay fresh longer in a bouquet.

In the forty-six years of the club's existence, there have been more than seventy members. *Submitted by Viola Ohlman*

"STARLIGHTERS"

The Starlighters Extension Club was organized in September, 1954, with eleven charter members, three of whom still belong. At first, membership was limited to residents of School District #18, but with consolidation this was dropped. Meetings are held in the evening in the homes of members, hence "Starlighters."

Regular annual events are: our summer family picnic, taking our husbands out for dinner in February, a Halloween party, guest night, and a Christmas party at which club sisters are revealed.

Money-making projects have been: food stands at neighborhood farm sales, cleaning our rural schoolhouse, white elephant sales, bake sales, and plant sales.

Members of our club have served as county officers, members of the county chorus, helped at Spring Tea, Achievement Day, and 4-H leaders' banquet, and helped clean the 4-H Building. We have gone on bus tours, alone or with other clubs. One member represented Merrick County with a demonstration at the Heritage Festival in York.

Community activities have included: helping collect for health fund drives such as Heart and Cancer; working at hospital rummage sales and thrift shop; giving Christmas goodies to rest homes; making tray favors for hospital and Bethesda, and other contributions to the community.

Special programs in the past have been hatmaking, book reviews, flower arrangement, cake decorating, "Dippity Doo', crafts, Ben the Hairdresser, and a slide show of neighborhood activities complete with pop and popcorn. We take the extension lessons also, and contribute to the scholarship fund and other projects of the County Extension Council. *Submitted by Evelyn Burke*

RAYMONA REMINISCES

Most of us are guilty of not listening when we're told something, so when my dad didn't recover from an operation, stories that only he could tell were gone forever. My grandfather, John Page, and my dad, Raymond Page, were employees of T.B. and Heber Hord most of their working days. I've always been interested in the size of the Hord-owned land and the names of the ranches, so before all is lost from Merrick County records, I'll try to recall some of the facts I've heard all my life and taken for granted.

My grandparents, John and Etta Page and family and, later, my parents, Raymond and Lucile, and my brother Paul and I lived in the Hord Home Ranch house. A beauty of a home, with great fireplace, carved stairs, colored glass windows, and large rooms. My, how lucky we were to call this house our home. I still remember the back stairs that went to the maid's room, and the kitchen stovepipe that went through the room for heat (and served as our automatic clothes dryer in the winter). Tony Grause's lived here also.



Hord Home Ranch

The big yellow building on the property was cobhouse, milkbarn, two-car garage, granary, and storage all in one. A large horse barn and a bunkhouse-scalehouse, with other outbuildings, completed the ranch yard. Across the road to the east was the boarding house, where John Page's also lived for a time. Meals were served from there to men living in the bunkhouse. The big barn was the mule barn. In the yard was a large barrel with a turtle in it that served as their garbage disposal. (It was really the container for holding waste until taken to the hogs.) The families of Harry Persons, Earl Henthorne, L. Campbell, and Ira Packer lived here later on.

One mile north and a quarter east of the Home Ranch was the Alfalfa Ranch, which had feed lots, a large barn, bunkhouse, large cement block house, and a smaller hired man's house, plus an elevator, silo, and scale-house. Vern Smith's family, cousins of the Pages, who lived here, had lots of good times together in the neighborhood. I remember, as a kid, a bad fire along the railroad to the north, when men fought the fire with gunnysacks dipped in the stock tank to beat out the flames. The Wilson brothers' families and the Kleve family of twelve children lived here later.

One mile farther southeast was the Traver Farm. It was mainly a crop and pasture farm, and was home for the Robert C. Campbell family when my mom, Lucile, became the bride of Raymond Page June 1, 1927. The marriage took place in the farm home, with a large group enjoying the day. The Frost family and Amos Senkbile's lived there, and now Wayne Senkbile's family is there.

One mile south of the Home Ranch was the Pieper Ranch. A portion of the house is a log cabin, used as a pony express station at first, then expanded to make a farm home. This building still stands, but is not in use by the present owners. There are graves under the cedar trees near the buildings. Piepers lived here, as did the Tony Bouwens family and the Glen Lewis's. This is on the main road to Hord State Lake. The pastures along the Platte River by the old river bridge were used for cattle and hogs belonging to the Hords. In the river pasture on the west side of the road, almost back to the railroad and the Riverside Park area, was a large building for the Boy Scouts. Young men came there all summer for campouts. This building has now been destroyed. In the late 1940's and early '50's, great numbers of bred sows were taken to these pastures and released, to have their litters with little attention. Lots of self-feeders and good water proved to be a profitable, easy way to raise hogs. This was called "Hog Heaven."

Going back toward the Home Ranch, a very large sheep barn could been seen, where hundreds of ewes had lambs during the winter. Sheep shearing time was one very busy time. Many winter nights, my parents and we kids, with our dog Chubbie, walked to this sheep barn to help with lambing problems. Old ewes sometimes refuse to accept their young, so had to be forced to feed them in the first hours. Coyotes were always a problem when sheep were in the lots or pastures.

All homes for hired hands were built from the same plan, so it's easy to spot a Hord house. The feedlots all had windmills with stock tanks for water, where the biggest, prettiest goldfish lived all year long. The feedlots had a number on the gate to keep the records straight.

To the southwest of the Home Ranch is Heber Station, or siding. This was a stockyard where complete trains of cattle or sheep were unloaded and driven by men on horseback to the various ranches. It seemed to me that these loads always came on Sunday or the Fourth of July or Thanksgiving, so we weren't able to go away from home. There was a home at the siding for a hired man's family. Dorson and Evelyn Ketch lived here. In more recent years, this became an alfalfa plant and cob storage place.

In the northeast part of Central City, where the Marvin Mace family now lives, is the Boone Ranch, another large farm where more cattle and sheep were raised. Minor Hord's family lived here, and so did Frank and Opal Shay. Just north of Central City on Highway 14, where P.M. French's live, was another Hord place. Where the Atlantic Homes and Industrial Park is now located was the Donovan Ranch. In the section north, on the west side of the road was another large home and barn with many acres of farm ground and hay meadow. Three miles north of town was the Fouts Ranch, where there is still a large house and bunkhouse, and a big horse barn with a hired man's house across to the east, which has been torn away. John Page's, Minor Hord's, and Harry Person's were some who lived there.

Northwest of Central City, on the Burlington line to Archer, is the Ogallala Station, another stockyard with an elevator, which was a very busy part of Hord Enterprises. There was another home in the middle of the section, and a large home and barn with feedlot. The Frank Jindra family now owns the Ogallala Ranch.

Three more ranches along the west side of town will complete this story. On the Ormsby Road, at the fairgrounds corner where Christensens live, was a large sheep yard. Farther south, across from the fairgrounds, was the Teschmacher Farm for sheep. The north room of the house was the scalehouse, and the lady of the house was the weigher. This was where the John Pages lived when first married, and where Raymond Page was born. (He never lived farther than two miles from town his entire lifetime. Neither have I, and I don't plan to leave either.) One-half mile south was the Maplehurst Ranch, where Carl Olsons lived and raised sheep. This is owned by Dinsdales now, and Joe O'Hare lives there.

The Paddock Siding to the west was used by Hords, McCulloughs, and Campbells to load carloads of sheep and cattle. The Thummel Ranch between Central City and Clarks was also owned by Hords and had a large stockyard and feedlot.

T.B. Hord was one of the world's largest cattle feeders. He was also a dealer of land and grain, and an operator of elevators and ranches in Merrick County and near Alliance, Nebraska. During World War One, his son, Heber established and managed potash plants at Antioch and Lakeside. The company was often hard-hit by the drouth and depression years, but Mr. T.B. Hord did many good



Hord Grain Office — George Lock — Clara Troh and ? (Muriel Jones)



Hord land sale 1911 following death of T.B. Hord in 1910



Ogden family with Auburn on Platte River Bridge



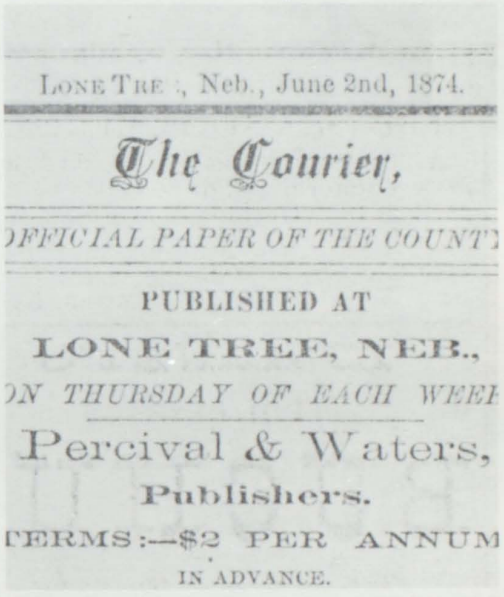
Riverside Park

things for the betterment of Central City, Nebraska. He obtained the first telephone franchise in town, later turning it over to Northwestern Bell. He built the first sewer lines. He donated Hord Hall to Nebraska Central College.

After the death of his father, Heber Hord assumed the responsibilities of the Hord enterprises and he, too, did many nice things for the people of Central City and Merrick County. Heber Hord installed the city's first street lights and donated the site of the present Central City post office. He maintained a constant and beneficent interest in the Christ Church Episcopal, as has his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Thomas (Aurel) Hord.

One mile south of the Hord Home Ranch was a sandpit used for watering livestock and for irrigation of cornfields to the north. A pump house covered a large motor which pumped the water out of the sandpit, and in irrigation season, the pit would become almost dry. With the coming of World War II, Lyman-Ritchie Sand & Gravel Company leased this sandpit and, with a railroad siding built for them, pumped many trainloads of sand and gravel for use in building the Ammunition Depot at Hastings, Nebraska. The result was a large lake which, in time, the Hords gave to the State of Nebraska. This is listed as one of the best recreation areas in the state.

In 1945, Heber Hord gave the city his parents' home to be used for a hospital. He later received the Ak-Sar-Ben Good Neighbor Citation for this gift. When the hospital was taken down to make way for Merrick Manor, the stained glass windows were bought and given to the First Christian Church by Melvin and Dorothy Zichek as a memorial to their parents. *Submitted by Raymona Grigsby*



LONE TREE, Neb., June 2nd, 1874.

The Courier,

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY

PUBLISHED AT

LONE TREE, NEB.,

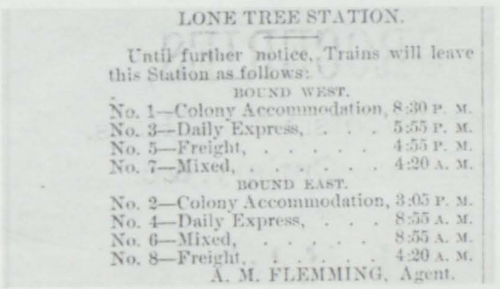
ON THURSDAY OF EACH WEEK

Percival & Waters,

Publishers.

TERMS:—$2 PER ANNUM

IN ADVANCE.



LONE TREE STATION.

Until further notice, Trains will leave this Station as follows:

BOUND WEST.

No. 1—Colony Accommodation,	8:30 P. M.
No. 3—Daily Express,	5:55 P. M.
No. 5—Freight,	4:55 P. M.
No. 7—Mixed,	4:20 A. M.

BOUND EAST.

No. 2—Colony Accommodation,	3:05 P. M.
No. 4—Daily Express,	8:55 A. M.
No. 6—Mixed,	8:55 A. M.
No. 8—Freight,	4:20 A. M.

A. M. FLEMMING, Agent.



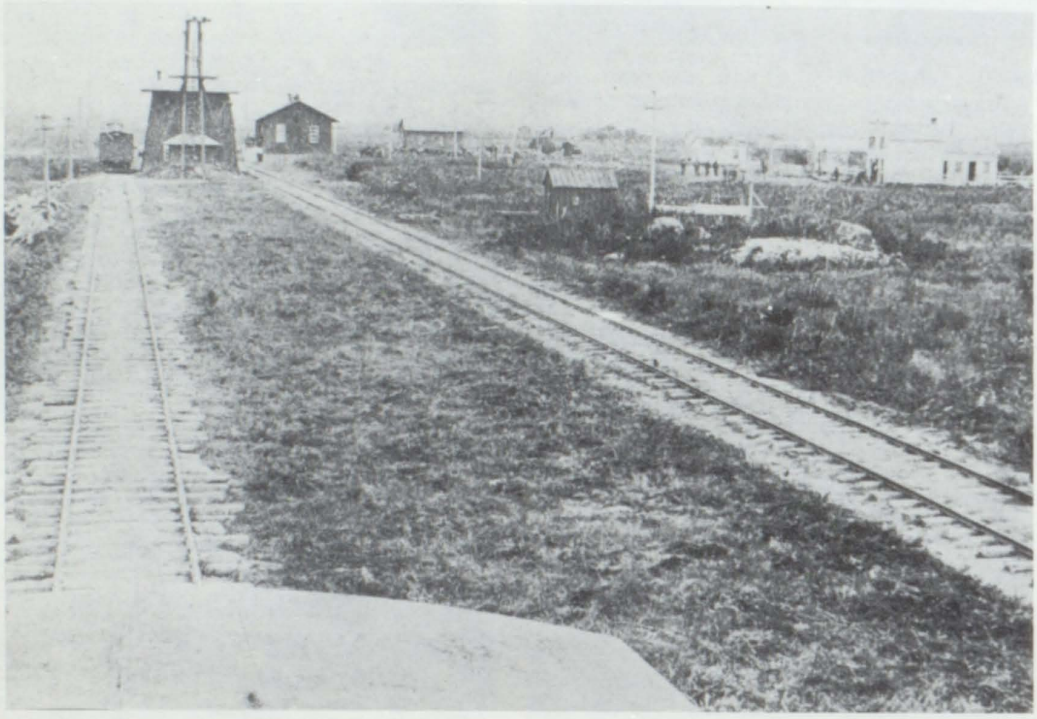
Erected in 1906 in the Central City Cemetery by the Women's Relief Corps.



Dedicating Lone Tree Monument — 1911



Central City, Merrick County Seat



In the town of Lone Tree, the first building, besides the little depot and section house, was the store of J.H. Berryman, the white building above. This building, erected in 1868, was used for the first session of the district court held in the county. It also served as the earliest place for religious worship.



Central City — 1877



On Lincoln Highway — 1910

Central City was originally the town of Lone Tree, named after the famous tree on the California Trail. It had its beginnings when the Union Pacific Railroad came through. On July 1, 1875, it was officially renamed Central City. It was eventually designated as the county seat, and grew to be the largest town in Merrick County. Because of its attractive tree-lined streets, an early Union Pacific folder described Central City as "the most beautifully shaded city west of the Missouri River." The history of the town is told in the accompanying pictures.



Central City — 1877



1906 panoramic view of triangle intersection. Taken by F.E. Taylor Broken Bow, Nebraska



16th Street, Looking West circa 1955



Going on a Picnic — 1901



G Street—Looking East circa 1955



Ross, Cowgill and Hart — presently McIlnay and Company

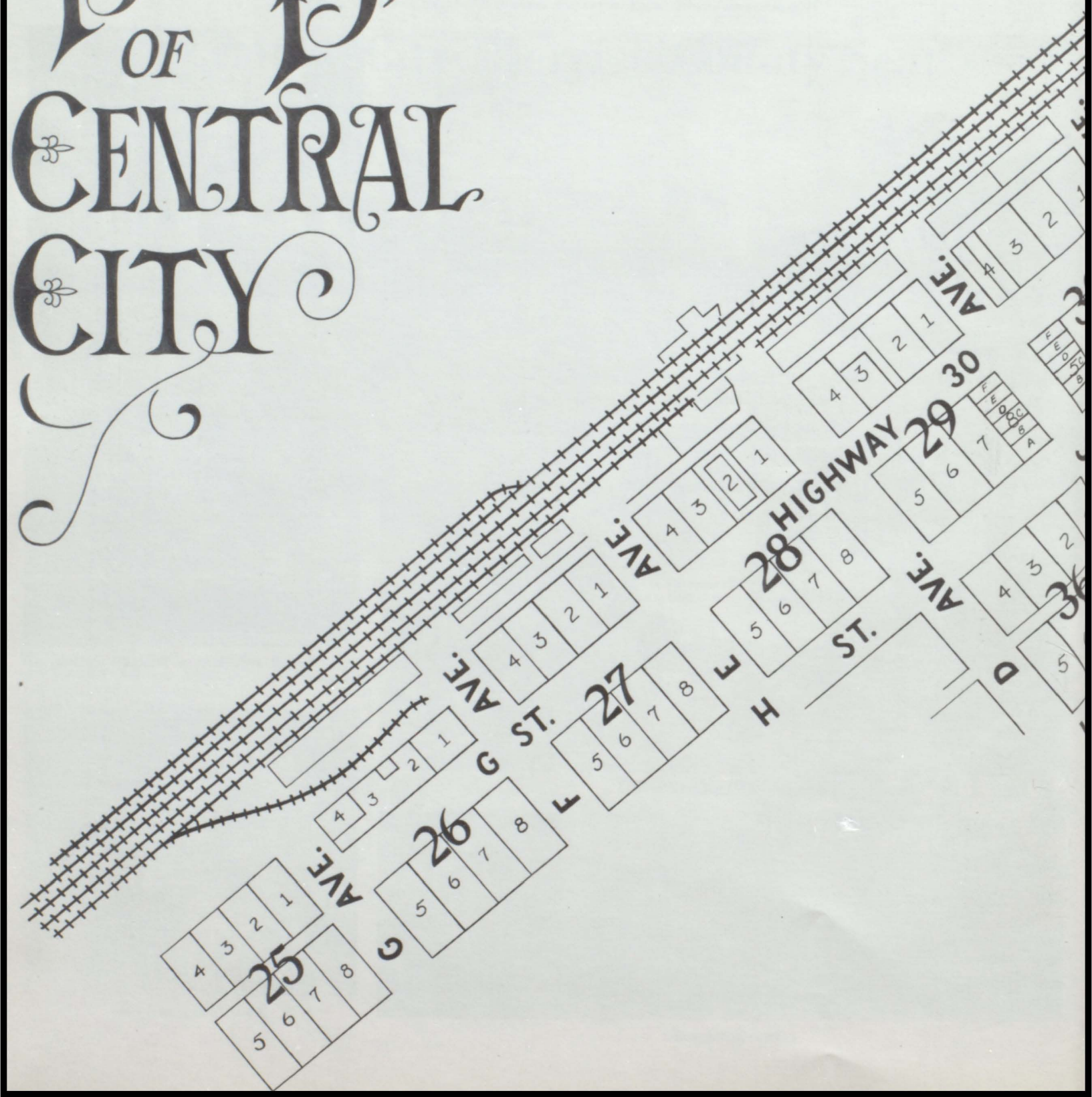


Early paving project



Absey Fouts grocery store

THE BUSINESS DISTRICT OF CENTRAL CITY



ORIGINAL LONE TREE
METCALF'S ADDITION
COUNTY ADDITION
14
HIGHWAY
AVE.
AVE.
AVE.
TAX LOT
9
8
7
6
C
16th ST.
HIGHWAY 30
TRIANGLE BLOCK
FOUNTAIN
10
11
12
13
D
3
2
1
17th ST.
35
AVE.
SIXTEENTH
FIFTEENTH
FOURTEENTH
4
5
6
7
18th ST.
SEVENTEENTH
ST.
11
10
9
8
19th ST.
Arlene L Scholz

Central City Businesses

Original Lone Tree

Block 25 N
Vieregg Mill
Jenkins Mill
Slegel Ice Plant
Edgar's Block Factory
Northern Propane
City Water Works
Rutherford Oil

Block 26 N
Faeh Machinery
O.K. Tire
Ace Body Shop
King Cattle Co.
Deep Rock Oil Station

Block 27 S
Jensen Upholstery
Sewell Upholstery
Darling Electric
Nantkes Conoco Station
Norton's Real Estate
1st Federal of York

27 N
Brinkhoff Delivery
Sallinger Cream and Eggs
DeBruner Iron Shop
Campbell Oil
Safeway
Dairy Queen
Hudgens Oil Station

Block 28 S
Mustard Oil
Hesselgesser Oil
Central Liquor Store
D & D Sandwich Shop

28 S
Porter's Livery Stable
Welniak Texaco Station
Kuhn Bros. Mobil Station
Groetzinger Mobil Station
Hayes Hotel
Nixon Hotel
Kelso Garage
Wilson Garage
Whittemore Freight
U.P.R.R., Walter Moore
Hesselgesser Motors

Block 29 S
Hugh Beale Motors
McCullough Ford
Gilbert Rose Motors
Central Motors
Chrisp Shoe Repair
Merrithew Bakery
Nordstrom's Cleaning
Meyer's Appliance
Brown Auto Parts
Osborn Plumbing
Sowl Barber Shop
Minniear Barber Shop
Dr. Gawyne
Dr. Logan
Martha Ellen Theater
State Theater
Selective Service
Ullstrom Hatchery
Stranberg Electric
Silva Radiator Shop
Clark Feed Store
Laundramat
Linderman Gas Station
Coggie's Battery
Howard Nielsen Farm Machinery
Persinger's Cars
Bill Dehm Blacksmith

Block 29 N
Belmont Hotel (razed)
ASCS — SCS
Beauty Shop
Dr. Bruce Ross
Dr. McAleer
City Police
Perry Cafe
Radcliffe Apts.
Clifford Cafe
Jensen Hatchery
Finlayson Ins.
Farm Bureau
Lone Tree Printers
Merrill Second Hand Store
Donelson Theater
McCullough Agency
Independent Club
Needleworks
Coggie Batteries
Trainor Barbershop
Hollandsworth Harness Shop
Drinkall Cafe
Bud O'Dell
Vogue Beauty Shop
Palaska Shoe Repair
Coleman Cafe
Central Cafe
Jake's Barbershop
Cudney Shoe Repair
Sullivan Tailors
Hensley Real Estate
Best Cafe
Desch Monuments
Williams and Huxford Grocery
Jernberg Appliances
Smith Electric
Ceders
Senior Citizens Center
Merrick Cnty. Welfare Office
Zwiebel Supply
Hord Elevator and Grain
Central Grain Co.
Cargill Co.

Block 30 S
Roller Rink
Academy of Music
Dr. Fouts
Dr. Hutchison
Dr. Glatfelter
Fuerst Gifts
Powell, Paint and Paper
Clarke Grocery
Smith Electric
Gambles
Parker Grocery
McClure Cafe
Hosick & Douthit Cafe
Slegel Meats
Post Office
Ulstrom Hatchery
Webster Furniture
Woolworth's
Minnie Breckon 5 & 10
Mansfield Variety
Machamer & Fouts
Hastings Jewelry
Schafer Bros.
Etc. Shoppe
Ceders
Maytag
McNurlin Cafe
Wilder Cafe
Bowling Alley
Golden Rule Store
Zlomke Furniture
Munn Furniture
Ross, Hart, McIlnay
Farmer's State Bank
Wolcott Smoke House
Schafer Optical
Hadenfelt Optical
Police Station
E.E. Ross, Atty.
Dr. E.E. Boyd
Dr. Line
Dr. Enos
Dr. Holmes
Reynold's Feed Store
Duffy's Transfer
Kuhn Cream & Eggs
Minniear Barber

Block 30 N
Popcorn
Stitzer Drug
R. Tooley Drug
Lynn Gilmore Drug
Zlomke Furniture
Central City Auto Parts
Williams & Huxford Grocery
Mansfield Grocery
C. Hummel Grocery
E.J. Eoff Grocery
Justice Drug
Grey 5 & 10
Daman 5 & 10
Novotny Liquor
Betty Jane Shop
Machamer Dry Goods
Trift Shop
Trotter's
McCartney & Carrington
Conservative State Bank
Delancey Dress Shop
Crandell Dress Shop
Hansen Cut & Sew
Peregrine Variety
Joe Gorgen Meats
McHargue & Nedblake Meats
Hudgens 5 & 10
Lafayette Beauty Shop
Bob Reed Cafe
Schiller Drug
Lindley Drug
Some Other Place
Patty's Pub
Doc's Place
May Grocery
Farrand Grocery
Schiller Real Estate
Chandler & Beatty
Farmer's State Bank
Welsch Jewelry
Schafer Bros. Jewelry
M.A. Larson Real Estate
Demel Abstracting
Lawson Flower Shop
Volkman Gifts
Burke Dry Goods
Eoff Dept. Store
Red & White Grocery
Gambles
Popcorn — Moores

Block 36 S
Fire Dept.
Nordstrom Cleaners & Laundry
Stine's Cleaners
Central Cleaners
Republican Nonpareil
Dr. Williams
Headquarters
Lehr Blacksmith
Roy's Service
Neil's Service Center
Charles Smith Laundry

Block 35
Jensen Machinery
Zamzow & Remboldt Implement
Haynes Bros. Implement
Jim Clark Grocery
A.S.C.S.
Standard Oil
Flat Iron Cafe
Morrow Watch Shop
Triangle Plaza
Edgar Mill

Triangle Block
Kelly Grocery
Templin Grocery
Eoff Grocery
Bishop and Withrow Hardware
Bishop & Free Hardware
Ceder's Home Improvement
Young World
Agnew Grocery
Elgin White Cafe
Delancey Cafe
Justice Drugs
Justice & Lock Drugs
Bert Lock Drugs
J. Lock Drugs
Dr. Muirhead Drugs
Mrs. Yeik Millinery
Porter Sisters Millinery
Sayer's Meat Market
Perry Bakery
Hall Coffee Shop
Schneiderheinz & Bolling Locker Plant
Bolling Locker Plant
Staats Real Estate
Riley Insurance
Platte Valley State Bank
Central Farm Development
Howe Grocery
Dr. Greving
Needle Works
Brannon Barber Shop
Solt Barber Shop
Munson Barber Shop
Lenhardt Barber Shop
Gary Jones Barber Shop
Foster Ready Mix

Triangle Block Second Story
Fitch Bros. Printing
Highlander's Hall
Woodmen of the World
Knights of Pythias Lodge
Cuddington Hall
Raecke Law Office
Dr. Luff
Dr. Benton
Dr. Zikmund
Peterson Beauty Shop

Block 9 C
Bishop & Withrow Hardware
Farmer's Union Store
Hested's
Bested's
Absey Fouts Grocery
Kissler Bakery
Throckmorten Bakery
Clark Bakery
Daylite Donuts
Dr. Scott
Legion Club
Greek Confectionery
Candyland Confectionery
Danhauer Confectionery
Phares & Torpin
Henderson Shoetorium
Heaton Grocery
J.K. Kerr Grocery
Grant Ramage Grocery
Nordstrom Grocery
Odd Fellows

Central City Businesses

Block 10 D
G.W. Smith & Morris Hardware
Lyric Theatre
Kerr Grocery
Hilton Tire Shop
Rhodes Shoe Repair
Rogan Variety
Riddlemoser Variety
Wordman Music Store
Nordstrom Cleaners
Lee Photo
Howard's Barber Shop
Balaska Shoe Repair
Lawson Florist
Solt Funeral Home
Kibbey Grocery
Berryman General Store
Kuhn Cream & Eggs
Trainer Barber Shop
Lone Tree Printers
Neil's Shoe Repair
Sampson, Curry & Hummel
Triangle Agency
Dr. Osborn
Republican Nonpareil
Masonic Hall
Co-op Creamery
Larson Chevrolet
Hospital Thrift Shop
Bice's Antiques
Haddix Welding
S & L Furniture
Needle Works

Metcalf's Addition
Block 9
Foster Lumber
Gosnell Confectionery
Ed Beaty
McCreary Drugs
Geren Drugs
Chicago Store Tyndale
Gould Dress Shop
Welsch Jewelry
Lauritzen Optical
Credit Production
Chamber of Commerce
Nordstedt's Clothing
Nelson Jewelry
Billesbach Jewelry
Empress Theatre
Sun Theatre
Carlson Bootery
Redman's
Mode o'day
Riley Insurance
Nordstrom's Clothing
Kombrink Furniture
Martin Furniture
Skiff Furniture
Brown McDonald
Coast to Coast
Pete Youngblut Grocery
Lutes Bakery
John Desch Monument
Safeway
Dr. Kelly
Dr. Brown
Dr. Zikmund
McGill's Studio
Beatty Studio
Cliff's Studio
Nelson Optical
Free's Beauty Shop
Grosshans
Almquist Shop

Block 8
Schiller Hotel
Ratcliff Hotel
Merrick Hotel
Lincoln Manor
Alma Oil
Thompson Oil
Central Farm Development

Block 7
Hord Home Community Hospital
Merrick Manor
Hudgens Conoco
Thorpe Gas

Block 6
Central Motel Bus Depot
Dot's Beauty Shop
Burlington Depot

Block 10
Martin & Bockes, Attorneys
Glantz Oil
Crawford Realty
Norton Realty

Central Bank
Central City National Bank
Walter Raecke Attn.
Post Office
Legion Hall
Hord Grain Co.
Hord Hall
Dr. A.E. Brown
Dr. N.J. Hoagland
Dr. Scott
Barge Bros.
Golden Rule Store
Benson-Pearson Furniture
Coast to Coast
Clothes Line
Silver Chest
Ed Martell, Implements
Friman-Stratman Implement
F.L. Larson
Skating Center
Campbell Electric
Don's Electric
Y.M.C.A. & City Offices
Library
Hoagland Harness Shop
Western Union
Telephone Office
E. Vossman
Beatrice Creamery
Maize Products
Central Lawn Service
Ellen's Hair Fair
Nelson Studio
Eagles Club

Block 11
Hoagland Lumber Co.
Post Office
Hards Library

Block 12
Filling Station
Park
Shop and Gas
Central Cleaners
C.C. Mall

Block 13
Shalberg Station
Pump and Pantry
Hord Mill
X-Y-Z-Woodworks

County Addition
Block 11-3
Oliver and McDaniel Livery Barn
Lucas Livery
Kelso Buick
Larson Chevrolet
Stratman and Friman Implements
Grosshans
Jim Market
Livery Barn
Alameda Dairy
Haddix Welding
George DeBrunner
Solt Funeral Home
Byers Funeral Home
Dolce and Solt Funeral Home
Solt Funeral Home

12-2 Block
Standard Station
C.C. Mall

Block 13-1
Nelson Machine Shop
Sunset Manor

Block 4
Linderman Maxwell
Daily-Drinkall Windmill
Fire Station
Nielsen TV
Troh Blacksmith
Hilton Tire Repair
Munn Repair
Larson Garage
Coggie Battery and Tires
Dizney Livery Barn
Overland Garage
Hord Lumber Co.
Sack Lumber Co.
John Reed Bicycle Shop
A.J. Bockes Abstracts
Forsell Blacksmith
Leonard Glantz Station
Wheelers
Winbolt Station
Eagles
Riblett Beauty Shop

Block 5
Telephone Company
Patterson Law Office

Torpin Attorney
Lone Tree Literary Society
Delancey Insurance
Braasch C.P.A.
Holly Berry
Dr. Treptow
Dr. Holmes
Brown Bison
Kozy Korner Cafe

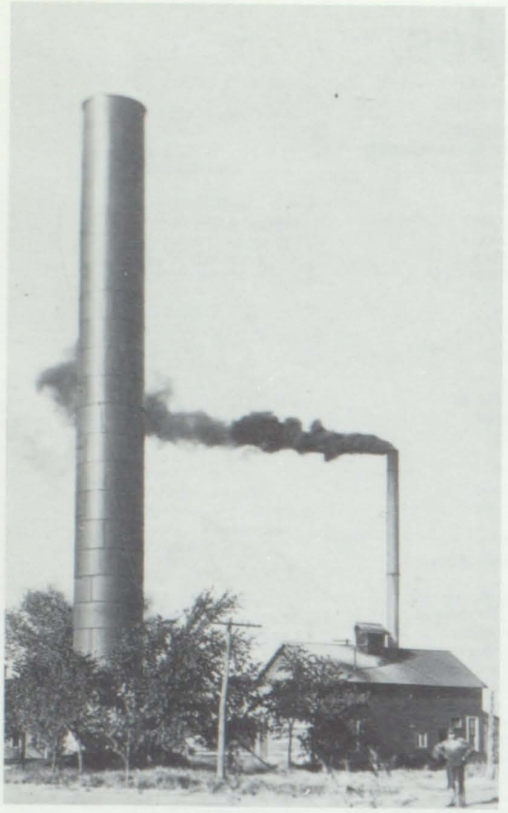
Block 6
C.C. Public Schools

Block 11
Lawson Florist
C.C. Florist
D.J. Shop

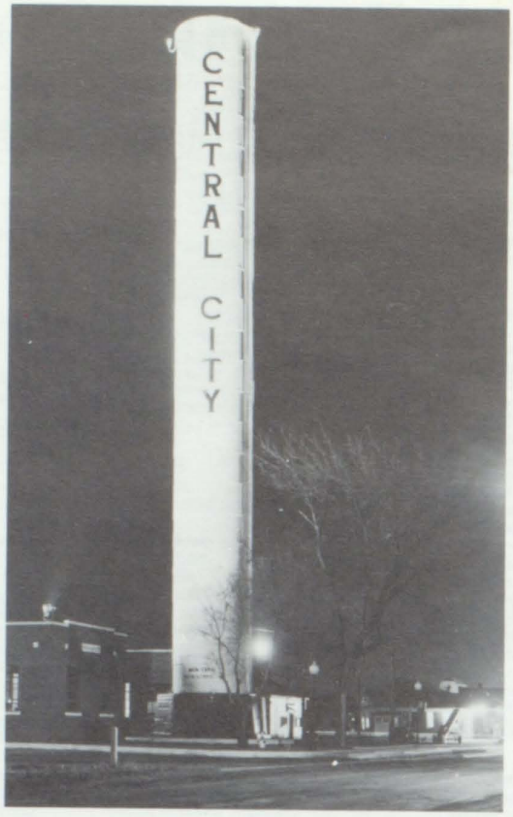
Block 10
Courthouse
County Jail

Block 9
C.C. Public Schools

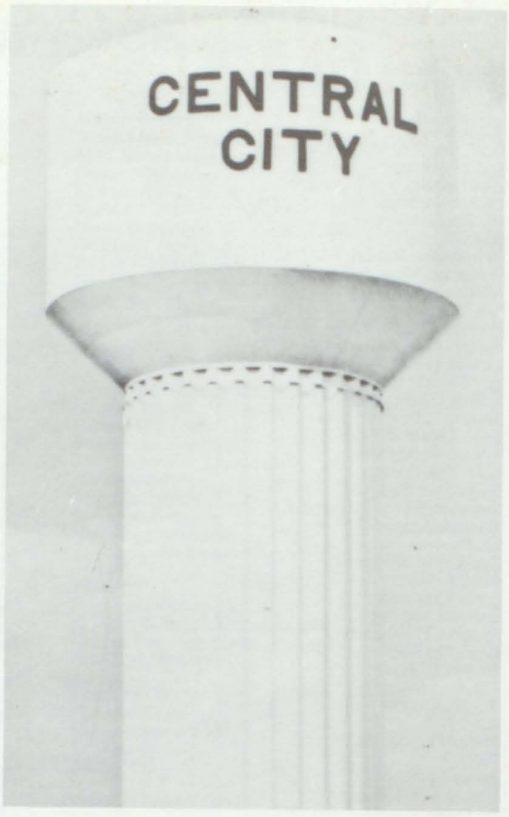
Outlying Businesses
D and E Auto Sales
Central Scales
Don's Refrigeration
Betts Trucking Co.
White Equipment
Woody's Cafe and Gas
American Legion
McNurlin Texaco
Mac's Root Beer
Palser Texaco
O.K. Tire
Lepp and Larsen John Deere
Ag Land John Deere
Fosters Home Center
Faeh and Rowan
Irvine Construction
Night and Day Cafe
Nelson Oil
Cable TV
Pizza Hut
Dave's Automotive
Larson Chevrolet
F.W. Precast
Grosshans International
Fair Grounds
Hesselgesser Oil
Community Sales
Thompson Dairy
Sewell Upholstery
Veed's Station
Benton Hospital
Duke's Rest Home
Linderman Rest Home
Von Ohlen Care Home
Morrow Watch Repair
Atlantic Homes
Olsen Saw Mill
Herk's Welding
Freeland Garden Center
Don's Bicycle Repair
Wegner Monument
Alschwede Dentist
Dr. Zikmund
Dr. Greving
Litzenberg Hospital
Swimming Pool
Lone Tree Park
Bethesda Home
South Central Medical Clinic
Central City High School
C.C. Veterinary Clinic
Dr. Barnett Vet.
Wells Trailers
Mac's Camping
Platte Valley Camping
Randy's Meats
Omaha Cold Storage
Volkman Grocery
Kate's Root Beer
Dr. Barry Turner
Farm Bureau
Green Lantern
Edda's Motel
Crest Motel
Black Cat Cafe
Tastee Freeze
Lamp Post
East Gate Cafe
Rocket Cafe
Haith Motors
Crawford Motel
Hilders Allis Chalmers
Bills Volume Sales
Breezy Point Motel
Wheeler
A.S.C.S.



Waterworks 1900



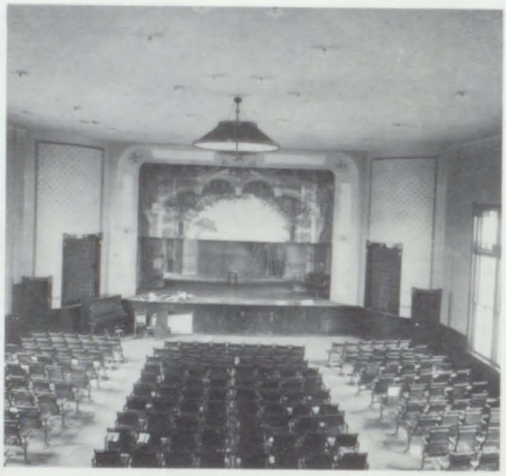
Landmark stand pipe



Water tower — built in 1973



Christmastime — 1980



Central City Opera House
Fifty feet wide, ninety feet long, some of the ceiling is twenty feet high. (Taken about 1908-1910)



Rodeo Time — June, 1981



Clara Everett and T.C. Reeves by the bell honoring William and Clara Wilder Everett.

MAYORS OF CENTRAL CITY

The following list shows when the mayors of the city of Central City have taken office down through the years. Note the first office holders were called chairman instead of mayor.

1878 — Sparks (Permanent Chairman)
1881 — Vieregg (Chairman)
1881 — J. McDonald (Chairman)
1882 — Ratcliff (Chairman)
1882 — J. McDonald (Chairman)
1883 — D. Martin (Chairman)
1885 — J.E. Holden, Mayor
1886 — C. Hostetter
1887 — J. Patterson
1889 — Hostetter
1890 — Whittaker
1891 — M.U. Scott
1893 — F.L. Hanson
1894 — Tyndale
1896 — C.W. Lemasters
1898 — T.L. Hanson
1900 — George Bockis
1902 — S.T. Stitzer
1904 — R. Tooley
1905 — M.A. Chandler
1906 — W. McCullough
1908 — Miller
1909 — Schiller
1913 — Bishop
1915 — L.C. Staats
1917 — F.K. Sprague
1919 — R. Tooley
1920 — B.E. Hart
1925 — Machamer
1928 — E.H. Bishop
1932 — Dr. Boyd
1934-1950 — A. Schneiderheinz
1951 — C.B. Foster (Acting Mayor)
1951 — H. Riley
1954 — Henry Phares
1956 — Leonard Glantz
1961 — Leslie Lindahl
1964 — L.L. Haddix
1968 — R. Crites
1970 — R. Lamb
1978 — R. Gibson

Researched by Phoebe McCullough

POST OFFICE

Central City, Merrick County, Nebraska. Established as Lone Tree on June 10, 1867. Name changed to Central City on April 26, 1875.

Postmasters	Appointment Dates
Edwin Parker	June 10, 1867
Benj. F. Lisk	August 12, 1868
Edwin Parker	April 25, 1870
Isaac B. Traver	August 22, 1870
Edwin Parker	June 26, 1871
James C. Percival	December 4, 1872
Edwin Parker	March 23, 1874
Benj. F. Lisk	February 23, 1875
James R. Ratcliff	May 18, 1875
Ephraim Bockes	June 26, 1876
George Bockes	February 20, 1878
William E. Letcher	December 14, 1880
John C. Logue	June 21, 1886
Newton R. Persinger	April 22, 1890
Christopher Hostetter	February 14, 1891
George C. Agnew	December 12, 1893
Lucius G. Comstock	March 9, 1898
Isaac S. Tyndale	March 2, 1907
Edward Bishop	January 22, 1915
Harvey B. Clayton	May 19, 1924
Robert E.B. Rice	July 5, 1929
Ralph B. Demel	December 11, 1929
Miss Edna Willis	March 26, 1934 (acting)
	March 31, 1934 (assumed charge)
	June 15, 1934 (confirmed)
Arthur L. Willis	November 8, 1937 (acting)
	November 13, 1937 (assumed charge)
	June 15, 1938 (confirmed)
Clifford Lyle Fauguier	June 28, 1963 (acting)
	August 19, 1964 (confirmed)
Donald L. Holz	March 25, 1974 (assumed charge)
	October 12, 1974 (confirmed)



United States Post Office
Central City, Nebraska, 68826

CENTRAL CITY AIRPORT

In 1963, the Central City Airport Authority was formed to oversee and regulate the airport that had been built two miles west of the north end of Central City, along the Ormsby Road.

An earlier airport had served the city since 1947: leased, graded, sodded, and built from a pasture by Roy and Iva Larson. The strip was called "The Silver Tee Airport" a tribute to the silver tee-hanger housing Roy's silver 1947 Luscomb. Two runways intersected. The north/south one was 1700′ long after an addition or two, and the east/west runway was 1200′. Plenty of runway for Mr. Piper's Cubs, early Cessna 120, 140, and 170's, an occasional Funk or Taylorcraft, and the Luscomb. Roy learned to fly from Amos Bankson. Although the city used it as its own, there were no funds alloted from the city budget for this airport. The land was two miles east of Central City on Highway 30, then one and three-quarter miles north, and was owned by Sanborn Booth.

The original airport authority consisted of Mayor Les Lindahl, Airport Manager Roy Larson, Secretary/Treasurer (for a good many years) Paul J. Slegel, Leo Stines and Hubert Demel. In March 1964, the authority got a loan to build the first hangars, and in 1969 allotted $4,000 to black-top around the eight hangars that existed then. The original sod strip was north/south, and 250′ wide and 2900′ long. "The 1533 (Fifteen Thirty-three) Flying club" was organized in 1969. The members, including Kenny Larson, chipped in and paid the total price for materials and provided the labor to build the present administration building, including waiting/conference room and rest rooms. The club then deeded the building to the city at no charge.

Several businesses have been housed at the airport, including aircraft maintenance and aerial spraying operations. Early on, the Ninety-Nines, a woman pilot's organization that included Mrs. Elgin (Katherine) White, painted the city's name atop the hangers. The current president of the authority is Kerry Rodysill, Jack Glantz serves as Secretary/Treasurer, and Jean Steckmyer continues as Manager. *Submitted by Paula Haynes Bosselman*



Pat Heaton — planting the cottonwood tree by the monument to the Lone Tree.

AWARDS PRESENTED BY THE CENTRAL CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Year	*Citizen*			
1957	Arthur R. Cogswell			
	Gladys Hauserman			
1958	Martin A. Larson			
1959	M.J. "Matt" Hurban			
1960	Dr. J.W. Hutchinson	*Farmer*		
1961	Mark Ditman	Ted C. Reeves		
1962	Kenny Torpin	Henry Schutz		
1963	L.L. Haddix	Warren Marsh		
1964	Arvid Stranberg	Dick Lippincott		
1965	Dr. Kenneth Treptow	J.O. Rawlings		
1966	Tom H. Moates	Alfred Bader		
1967	Frank McConnell	Don McHargue		
1968	Donald F. Sampson	Earl Brandes		
1969	Matt Billesbach	Harold Zmek		
1970	Dr. E.T. Zikmund	Harold Beck		
1971	Erv Hesslegesser	George Ferris		
1972	Bob Lambe	Dean Christensen	*Educator*	
1973	Terry Trueblood	Dwain VanPelt	Ray Huggett	
1974	Evelyn Everett	LeRoy Dexter	Velma McLean	
1975	Central City Volunteer Fire Department—on this year, only the fireman received awards.			
1976	Joe Heeney	Elsmer Kuskie	Kay Sawyers	
1977	Cal Lepp	John Jefferson	Edna Widman	*Humanitarian**
1978	Vernie Lock	Brandes Brothers	Phoebe McCullough	Keith Green
1979	Warren Mesner	Marvin Kyes	Judy Williams	L.L. Haddix and Harley Riley
1980	James and Myrtle Clarke	Roy Creutzberg	Gerald Hatt	

*This award is given only for a special reason.

"FIRE!"

An explosion, followed by a raging fire, destroyed an entire city block in downtown Central City on December 17, 1975. Phillip Bolling, owner of Bolling Locker Plant, was killed instantly in the explosion, which occurred at the rear of this store. His daughter, Chris, was injured. The fire that followed the explosion erupted about five minutes after the blast. In the hours that followed, the entire block of stores and contents were destroyed. This included the Bolling Locker Plant, Ceder Home Improvement, Central Farm Development, the Needle Works, Justice and Locke Drug, Dr. Lauritzen's optometric office, Chamber of Commerce office, and the lodge of the Knights of Pythias and Pythian Sisters.





Fire scenes — 1975

Fire companies from fifteen communities aided the Central City Fire Department in battling the blaze in sub-zero weather. Police officers from Central City, surrounding counties, and the State Highway Patrol were also at the scene. Dozens of bystanders aided the firemen in moving equipment and carrying records and merchandise from the buildings ahead of the blaze. Torrents of water were poured on the burning buildings throughout the day and into the early evening, then guards were posted throughout the night to keep watch on the smouldering ruins. Early the next morning, hose trucks were called back to control new fires which had erupted.

By the next afternoon, demolition equipment had arrived and crews had begun to clear the site prior to the necessary razing operation. Of the businesses destroyed, the Needleworks, Justice Pharmacy, Central Farm Development, Dr. Lauritzen, and the Chamber of Commerce relocated at other sites in Central City. Ceder Home Improvement rebuilt on their original site. Young World (a clothing store) and the Merrick Foundation office have also been built on the block. The remaining empty space has been used for a beautiful flower garden planted by Maxine Jensen. *Submitted by Barbara Justice*

CENTRAL CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Central City Volunteer Fire Department was organized and held its first meeting on March 14, 1905. At the meeting held April 14, 1905, they adopted a set of by-laws and a constitution. They probably had twenty-five men at the first meeting, and they elected C. Ernest Clarke, who would serve until 1916, as their fire chief. They also organized into two separate companies: hook and ladder company elected P.S. Heaton and G.W. Payne as leaders while hose company elected R.A. Golding. They set bell signals of: three taps of the bell — regular meeting or drill, four taps of the bell — fire call. A chemical company is listed in the constitution, but was not formed until 1911.

Members needed to be in sound health, between the ages of twenty-one and fifty, and a resident. The limit was set at thirty-five members and remains so today. One of the first entries in the books from the beginning of the department show that a fire on September 5, 1906, destroyed City Hall, with a loss to the building of $145.00 and loss to the contents of $100.00, only $50 of which was insured. Fines set in 1905 are still in effect today. $.50 was the fine for leaving any fire without permission of the chief or foreman. Unnecessary talk during duty or using profane language while on duty incurred a $.25 fine. The first Fireman's Ball was held New Year's Eve, December 31, 1905, at the Academy of Music.

About the end of World War I, the department bought, and became one of the first rural companies in the country to own, a rural fire truck. It was purchased with donations, Hord's adding $500 to the fund. A bare truck chassis was purchased, then taken to Hord Machine Shop to be outfitted as a fire truck. In 1935, the department again solicited donations for a new truck. They purchased a 1935 Dodge, put the equipment from the old truck on it, and had L.L. Haddix and others construct a larger water tank for it. This truck is still in service, being sold to the Clarks Fire Department in 1947. In 1946, donations were again taken up and a 1946 Ford with American Fire Equipment of Indiana supplying the apparatus. The whole outfit cost $4600.00.

In 1959, the Rural Fire Protection District was organized. They purchased a 1959 International outfitted by Luverne Fire Aparatus in Luverne, Minnesota. It was sold in 1977 to a department in Idaho and replaced with a 1977 Ford with Luverne Equipment. Beginning in 1959 with the formation of the rural fire district, funds for its existence come from district property taxes.

In 1916, a Brockway Fire Truck was purchased by the city fire department. It remained in use until 1933, when they bought a 1933 Luverne. Only eleven of this model were made. In 1981, nine are in the hands of their original owners. The price was $5200, and this truck still goes to every major city fire. It is still in excellent condition. It pumps seven hundred fifty gallons per minute. The city purchased an additional Chevrolet/Luverne truck that also pumps seven hundred fifty gallons.

Someone ran to ring the bell for the first fire alarm in the city. Telephones came to Central City around the turn of the century, and setups to put fire phones in each fireman's home were begun in the late '50's. This enabled the dispatcher to make one call and connect with all the company at one time. The original electric whistle, purchased in 1915, is still at 1414 H Street. It is blown four times a day: 7 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, and 6 pm. The siren was probably hand made, as some of its original insides are made of wood. It replaced a mechanical siren of some sort that was set up to sound a signal of one to seven blasts to let the town and fire company know where the fire was.

In 1980, the rural fire district and the city fire department combined in the purchase of a Cayl-Craft van on a mobile home chassis. This unit cost $24,000, and is used to transport equipment and personnel to and from fires. It is also equipped to transport injured personnel to medical care. All units are equipped with two-way radios.

The department has fielded track teams and baseball teams. They sponsor a Junior Fire Patrol and Fire Prevention Week, when they visit schools and organizations to talk about fire prevention and safety. Farthest fires they have fought have been Osceola and St. Paul. Two hours a month and different specialty schools attendance is required for further education. They still put on the Fireman's Ball. They sponsor a free children's movie at Christmas. They feed the band members following the Veteran's Day parade. They have water fights with other fire departments in the area.

In 1975, the Central City Chamber of Commerce presented their Outstanding Citizen Award to the Central City Volunteer Fire Department, and offered the following tribute: " . . . when a fire call comes in, these people, on a voluntary basis, leave their homes and places of work and actually risk their lives for all of us. We know of no one more deserving on the award and take this night to humbly say the words that can't possibly express our total appreciation, 'Thank you, Central City Fire Department!' " *Submitted by Paula Haynes Bosselman from interviews with Dan Schneiderheinz*

CENTRAL CITY SCHOOLS

The original high school was built in 1885 where the present elementary building is, and the first graduating class was in 1886 with only three students. The school colors at that time were old rose and green. This combination was used until the late 1930's, when our current "green and gold" was born.

Until 1889, only grades one through eleven were offered. In that year, a twelfth grade was added.



High School — 1887

Athletics began in the year 1903, centering on track, with all sports being out-of-doors. Both boys and girls participated. In 1913, the first indoor sport, basketball, was added.

The class of 1914 was the last to graduate from the first high school. In the fall of that year, a new high school was completed, which is the present middle school. The first annual, "The Shamrock", was also published in 1914. In 1927 the first high school was torn down, and the present Southward K-5 was built.

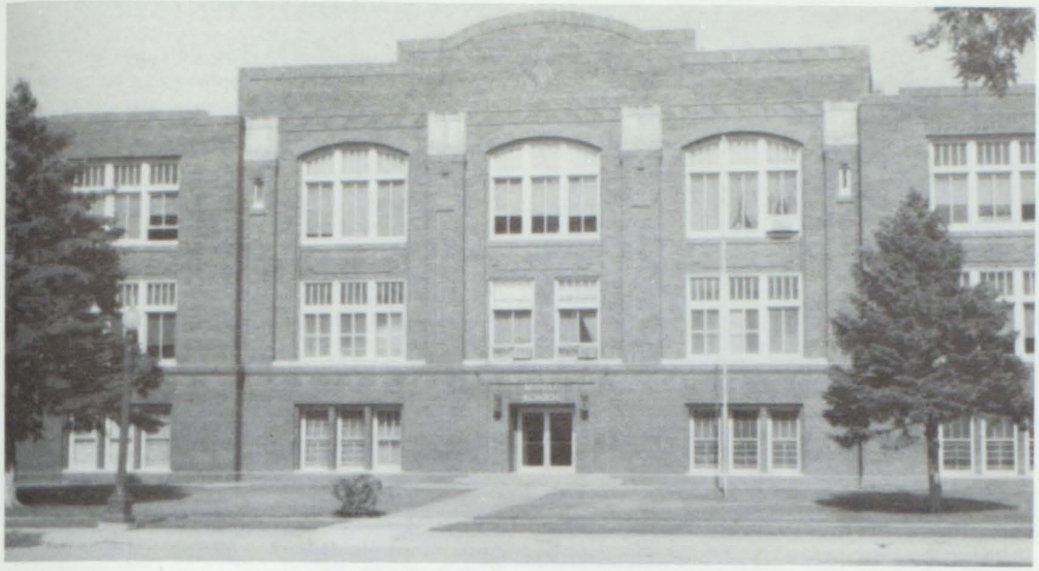
The first school newspaper, "The Broadcaster," was published in 1929. The first Junior-Senior Prom was initiated in 1934, sponsored by the junior class.

World War II had a great impact on the Central City schools. Several members of the faculty and graduating students were inducted into the service. Classes were disrupted from time to time because new teachers would have to be found to replace those who had left for the service.

The gymnasium was constructed in 1947. Before that, the cafeteria in the middle school was used as a gym, and had a sunken floor which is now covered.

The Vietnam era greatly affected the attitudes of society. In 1969 it was no longer required that girls wear dresses to school.

As the 70's progressed, there was a greater need for vocational and career-related facilities. In 1979, the high school was expanded to accommodate the freshman class of ninth graders and to meet these needs. The new addition, which included a media center, greatly enlarged shop areas, and additional class rooms, was completed in 1979. *Submitted by Patti Schank*



Built in 1914 for a High School
Now Middle School



South Ward



Auditorium, built in 1947



High School — 1968



North Ward — built in 1914

"HERE COMES THE BUS!"

To quote the Central City Nonpareil (January 14, 1943 edition), "Merrick County's first "little red schoolhouse" was of logs, covered with willow brush and sod, and erected at a cost of less than $100. The schoolmistress received $33 for her first year's work. In the winter of 1868, Miss Ellen Abbott, later Mrs. Dodge, met her first classes, and in April was given her yearly salary."

My, how times have changed! Once there were many one-or two-room schools in Merrick County. After eighth grade graduation, apprehensive teen-agers went to town schools for their higher education. Now, one's schoolmates may well be the same from kindergarten through senior graduation day.



First day of school

To me, the first day of school, 1968, will always be a day to remember. It was the first day of busing at Central City schools. All across the countryside, the word was, "Here comes the bus!" I was one of many drivers to meet the challenge of that day. Routes had been mapped out by Superintendent Marvin Shreve. As we started on our routes, lightning flashed, thunder rolled, and the rains came. Children and parents were watching for us. We arrived at the Central City schools on time, warning lights flashing, with school personnel on hand to get the students into the correct buildings. About 3:00 p.m., buses began to line up in front of the buildings for the evening route, and — you guessed it! It rained all the way home. What a great day!

Now it is the end of another shcool year, 1981. My own children are no longer of school age, but I'm still a bus driver. Some of the buses have been replaced. Many drivers have come and gone. The first buses were serviced by the dealers, but later a bus shop was purchased and a bus mechanic hired. Howard Shively had this job first. After his death, David Pullen accepted the position. Automatic transmissions and base-to-bus radios have been the best improvements. We have a record to be proud of, with only minor accidents. Come blizzard, fog, rain, or bus difficulties, it's still "Here comes the bus!"

Submitted by Raymona Grigsby



Merrick County's Litzenberg Memorial Hospital

LITZENBERG MEMORIAL COUNTY HOSPITAL AND LONG TERM CARE

Litzenberg Memorial County Hospital was constructed to take the place of Hord Memorial Hospital. Construction was completed on the new twenty-nine bed facility in 1959, and it opened its doors for service to the residents of Merrick County on March 11, 1959.

In just a few short years, Litzenberg Memorial County found itself bustling with activity. Patients were being housed in the hallways. To facilitate this overflow of patients a twelve bed addition was completed in 1963. The 1963 addition brought the total capacity to forty-one acute care beds and eight bassinets in the nursery.

As the years passed, the need of an additional Nursing Home in Merrick County was perceived. To accommodate this need, construction began on a Long Term Care addition and remodeling of the Hospital in 1974. Construction was completed in 1975 and a Long Term Care wing opened on September 1, 1975. The wing is licensed as a thirty-eight bed Intermediate Care Facility No. 1.

Throughout the years remodeling and adjusting has taken place in order to provide a full service facility. As technology has advanced, Litzenberg Memorial County Hospital has advanced with it and provides a full range of services. The Hospital is equipped to handle numerous types of emergencies with its three emergency rooms and special care unit.



Emergency room.

The Long-Term Care portion of the Hospital has maintained an almost full status and continues to offer the residents a full range of services through employees and consultants.

Litzenberg Memorial County Hospital's goal is to maintain and foster the best care possible to its patients and residents at the least possible cost while striving to constantly improve.

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The history of St. Michael's Church parallels that of the Union Pacific railroad and Lone Tree and Central City. The settling of many Catholic families followed the coming of the railroad. John Donovan, R.H. Kombrink, John Roach, Thomas Kelley and John Higgins were railroaders. Other early settlers were Michael Tobin, John Farrell and Michael Duffin.



Old Catholic Church on D Street. Now gone.

The first Mass was celebrated in the Kombrink section house in 1870, by Father Ryan from Columbus. Attending were Michael Tobin, John Burnes, Mrs. M.L. Wright, Mrs. Vaughn, Thomas Kelley, R.H. Kombrink, and their families; Michael Duffin, and Stephen Heaton. Father Ryan served the area at intervals until 1881, a small church having been built in 1876. Other families were Johnny McMahons, Jimmy Farrells, Henry Heatons, A. Stones and Peter McMahons.

Father Garry came in 1881, staying eight years during which time a house was purchased for a rectory. Some of the time he lived with the Stone family. In 1889, he was moved to St. Paul to serve Central City only monthly.

In 1890, Father Hork came and lived with the James McKivetts until a rectory was built for $1,000. Father Gleason came in 1891, followed by Father Delfosse in 1897. A new church was built in 1898 for $3,000.

Father O'Connor served from 1907-1927; followed by Father Gebauer, 1927; Kluthe, 1931; Gately, 1936; Brady, 1936; Teves, 1940; Duhamel, 1944.

Mrs. Martha McAleer donated property in south Central City and in 1950, Father Ignatius Spenner built a rectory and a steel church. On the same property a brick church was built by Father Kuhn in 1967. Father Gill came in 1971. Father Carl has served since 1974. *Submitted by Pete McMahon*

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Central Christian Church of Central City, Nebraska, is perhaps the newest of church organizations in Merrick County, beginning its first meeting on October 1, 1978, at 1621 15th Avenue in Central City. Central Christian Church is a church of the New Testament pattern, meeting each Lord's Day from home to home as is recorded in a number of references in the New Testament. As recorded in Acts 2:42 the group meets for the specific purposes listed there. They study and search the Apostles Doctrine (the Bible), fellowship together, spread the Lord's Table, and pray. The group is served by Dr. Melvin E. Zichek who lives at 2730 North Road, Grand Island, Nebraska. Officers are Dorothy Zichek, treasurer, Melvin Zichek, secretary, Elsmer Kuskie, deacon, Dorothy Zichek, deaconess, Shannon Zichek, assistant teacher, Daisy Kuskie, organist, Raymona Grigsby, coordinator, Elsmer Kuskie and Robert Grigsby, advisors, and Raymona Grigsby, Irene Harmon, Daisy Kuskie, Lucile Page, Leola Tewell, Dorothy Zichek, and Shannon Zichek, hospitality committee women. Raymond Page is carried as elder emeritus, in memoriam. The official address of the group is P.O. Box 317, Central City, Nebraska. *Submitted Melvin Zichek*

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The First Christian Church of Central City, Nebraska, was organized December 1906, meeting at first in the old Williams and Husford store, which is now the Senior Citizen building. John J. Baldwin helped organize the group.

Charter members included Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Williams and their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dinges, Mrs. Fullerton, and Dr. E.E. Boyd.

The present church building at 407 A. Avenue was dedicated December 8, 1907. Reverend W.J. Lowe, a state evangelist, conducted the dedication services.

The church was started as a New Testament church and "Where the Bible speaks, we speak, and where it is silent, we are silent." The slogan remains the same: "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things, love."

May 28, 1961, the ground was broken for the educational unit. June 11, 1961, the cornerstone for the kitchen and dining rooms was dedicated.

During the years of 1954, 1955, and 1956 a camp was held a week each summer, at Riverside Park. It was called Camp Christian. Bible teaching, crafts, and fellowship were presented to the group. Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Zichek were the leaders.

Daily vacation Bible school has been held every year, and is attended by a large group of children.



First Christian Church, Central City

Ministers who have served the church were John Alber, C.A. Norman, R.C. Libhart, E.O. Sweeney, L.O. Huitt, John Oscar Grover, Albert Mugatt, E.R. Child, W.S. Lowe, and Melvin Zichek. Clark Bates is the present minister.

The church celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1981. *Submitted by Opal Bice and Ruth Green*

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Henry Shaw came "on the cars" from Grand Island to the settlement of Lone Tree December 16, 1872. The oldest church (of any denomination) was St. Stephens, Silver Creek, founded in 1865 by The Rev. Shaw. There were three families in Lone Tree — Dr. L.L. Doolittle, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Payne. He obtained permission from Judge Ed Parker to hold services in the school. Plans were made to come fortnightly.

Bishop Clarkson of Omaha visited in August, 1873, and expressed himself highly pleased with prospects of the embryo parish.

August 10, 1873, a Sunday School was organized and held in the U.P. Depot. Mr. Mc Endree was appointed Superntendentt. with fourteen scholars. The Rev. Mr. Higgs of Plum Creek also helped with St. Luke's Mission.

In 1880, Mr. H.C. Metcalf and the Burlington railroad donated two lots on condition a church be erected in one year. In August 1881, a proposal was received from Christ Church, East Orange, New Jersey, to the effect that their parish would donate $300 in cash to erect the new church to be called Christ Church. An application was made to the Bishop, and St. Luke's Mission of Lone Tree became Christ Church, Central City. When subscriptions reached $1100, plans were made and the church — the one still in use and the oldest church building in Central City — was built in 1881. A Christmas gift was received from Christ Church, New Jersey, of furnishings for the new church, including a silver flagon now used for water at baptisms.



Christ Episcopal Church

In March 1882, the church being complete and paid for, the rector, wardens, and vestrymen presented it formally to the Rt. Rev. Robt. Clarkson. On the 19th of March, The Rev. W.V. Shaw preached for the first and last time in the new church due to ill health.

The Rev. Richard Shields is the present priest. He is also a part-time pharmacist.

The above history was taken from actual church records which are on micro film at the Nebraska State Historical Society. *Mrs. Heber (Alma) Wagner*

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Proverbs 3:5-6

The Evangelical Free Church in Central City is the result of a vision of the late Dr. Campbell to see a Free Church in Central City.

In January 1963, a group began meeting in homes for Bible study and prayer. In September 1964, the Free Methodist property was purchased. Dr. Campbell was elected chairman of the board. The building was remodeled by volunteer labor. The first service, February 21, 1965, was conducted by Rev. Keith Sandberg of Kearney, who served as pastor on Sundays. Dedication was on April 25, 1965. Dr. Olson, president of the Evangelical Free Church of America was the speaker. A lot was purchased for a new parsonage, and built and completed in July 1966. Rev. Ralph Larson and family were the first residents.



Evangelical Free Church

Groundbreaking and construction of the educational unit began in the spring of 1968. At this time, we were saddened by the untimely death of Dr. Campbell. The cornerstone was laid November 3, 1968. When the sheet rock was in place, the building was put to use. It was dedicated March 28, 1971, in memory of Dr. Campbell.

Groundbreaking for the new 300-seat sanctuary took place March 14, 1976. The completed unit was dedicated Nov. 6, 1977.

Pastors who have served: Keith Sandberg 1965-1966; Ralph Larson 1966-1972; Gary Overly 1972-1973; Herbert Peters 1973-1974 Interim; John Ellefson 1974-1978; Stephen Murray 1978 Supply; Philip Thorn 1978-1979 Interim; Gary Deaville 1979-present.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

The Nebraska Central College building with 320 acres of land was acquired by Friends in 1898. Part of the land was surveyed for home sites near the College. The establishment of a worship center was of first importance! A lot was purchased in Central City and a 40 by 40 foot building was erected and furnished with seats, organ, stove and lights. Business people of Central City gave $1300 of its $1650 cost. It was dedicated January 15, 1899, when there were no Friends living in Central City; a house without a congregation.

Soon Friends families moved here to be near the College, or to serve on faculty or staff. Others joined by convincement so that in March 1899, the Central City Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends was officially organized. In less than a year there were 100 members.

Among the active families over the years, and each will remind us of others, were: Able, Carrell, Crosbie, Eaton, Emry, Ferguson, Hull, Joyce, McHargue, Myers, Mesner, Stevens, and Watson.

The Meeting House has since been enlarged and a full basement added. During the active years of the college, the Meeting was characterized by youth, considerable turnover and college leadership.

Lindley and Corona Cook gave the longest and most devoted service as pastors. At present Delano and Ardis Cunningham are our dedicated pastors. The leadership of our members in community and in wider Quaker organizations is a testimony to the years of creative background our Monthly Meeting has provided.



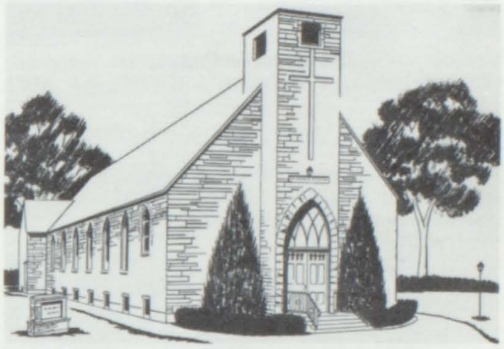
Friend Meeting House in early 1920's.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Central City has officially been a part of Merrick County history since Marsh 2, 1924, when five men, representing thirty-five souls, signed the first constitution: Theodore Benecke, August Butt, John Hake, Charles Kanter, and Fred Kanter. Her roots, however, go back to 1904, when neighboring pastors from Polk, and then Palmer, began holding worship services in local homes, in District #21 school, and in Grace Lutheran Church.

On September 7, 1930, Albert Kohtz was installed as our first pastor. From 1937-41, Paul Panning served as pastor, followed by Melvin Meyer (1942-45), Martin Schabacker (1945-51), John Knippenberg (1951-58), Albert Schroeder (1958-65), Armin Wagner (1966-1977), and Richard Kothe (1979-).

In 1930, we met briefly in the Free Methodist Church and then in Cuddington Hall. On April 24, 1932, a portable chapel, our first church home, was dedicated and, in 1936, moved from the McKendree property to G Avenue and I Street.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod



Pastor A.L. Kohtz and the ladies who joined Aid in the 30's on the 50th Anniversary.

On April 23, 1944, the cornerstone was laid for our new sanctuary which was then enlarged in 1958 to its present size. Our 25th anniversary was celebrated in May, 1949, with the dedication of a new organ. By the 50th anniversary in 1974, the thirty-five souls had grown to 350.

We are happy to be a part of Merrick County history and commit ourselves to the joyous challenge of writing future chapters with the same pioneering and persevering spirit which characterized the Christian mission of our forefathers. *Submitted by Richard Kothe*

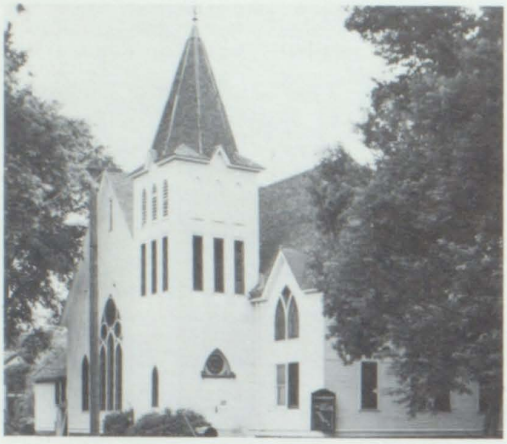
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Lone Tree Methodist Episcopal Church had its inception in the fall of 1871, and was formally organized in the spring of 1872. By 1873, Reverend Fairchild had gotten together seventy members and probationers.

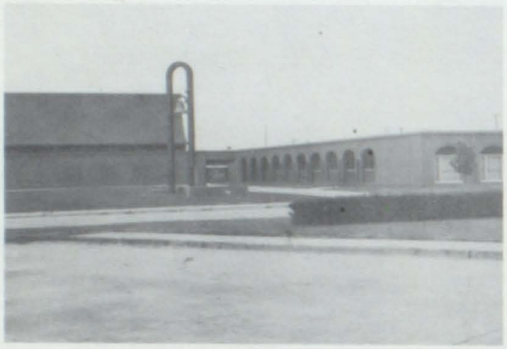
In the early years, the Sunday School was interdenominational. At first, the Methodists used a schoolhouse, then a small garage-like brick building for preaching services. When the Baptists built a

church in 1872, they generously shared their building with the Methodists, alternating Sundays for preaching services.

In 1900, Central City Methodist Episcopals had a new church building located north of the Union Pacific railroad tracks. This building cost approximately $9000. In 1972, the present church building was dedicated at the Centennial dedicatory service.



Old Methodist Church



United Methodist Church with new Bell Tower.

Many devoted and dedicated pastors served — in fact, so many that it would be impossible to even list all of them. Each one was individual and each left his own personal influence upon the church. As far as numbers were concerned, this is a profile of members: 1872 — 70, 1880 — 85 full members, 1887 — 203, 1900 — 312 and in 1981 — 654.

To bring this thumbnail sketch up to date, we should report two outstanding events of 1981. The first was the acquisition of a beautiful bell and bell tower, dedicated in June 1981. The second was the sale of the parsonage usually designated as the "Stone House" because of the donors, and the purchase of a larger and more convenient parsonage. The present pastor, Denny Silk, his wife, Jean, and son Kyle moved into the new parsonage in April, 1981.



Early Grace Lutheran Church

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Lone Tree Presbyterian Church was founded on April 14, 1872, under the leadership of the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, one of the most colorful missionaries of that time. His goal was to "Win the West to Christianity", and he established hundreds of churches and mission stations.

The Rev. George W. Newell was called to be the first pastor. Twenty-three other ministers have served this church, including the present pastor, the Rev. Richard W. Hovis.

The congregation met in downtown buildings and the school before erecting their own building in 1884. The one-room frame structure was built on the site of the present church parking lot. This first building served the congregation until 1914, when the present brick structure was built on the adjoining corner lot (previously given to the church by Mr. and Mrs. T.B. Hord).

The church had a Sunday School from the beginning. The women's organization evolved from the Women's Missionary Society of 1883, through the Ladies' Social Circle of 1888 and the Westminster Guild of 1919, to the present United Presbyterian Women's Association. A chapter of Mariners (the Presbyterian couples' club) was formed in 1947 and is still active. The church has sponsored various community activities through the years, notably Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and the present-day Magic Mirror Nursery School.

The Central City United Presbyterian Church celebrated its centennial in October 1972, with a special two-day celebration. The United States Bicentennial was also observed, by holding worship services in the early-day tradition.



Interior of Presbyterian Church



Presbyterian Church



P.E.O., CHAPTER AB

Charter members were: Florence Thompson, president; Minnie Muirhead, vice-president; Ada Tyndale, recording secretary; Margaret Anderson, corresponding secretary; Addie Schiller, treasurer; Bettie Webster, chaplain; Helen Burgess, guard; Frank Kelley, journalist; Grace Yungblut; Alice King; Olive Ayres; Mary Bissell; Nettie Nettleson, and Marion Hord Richardson. All charter members were initiated on March 20, 1902, the organizational date, except for Mrs. Muirhead who had been a P.E.O. member in Iowa.

The organizational meeting was held in the parlor of Schiller's Hotel, and coincided with the day Carrie Nation visited Central City. As refreshments were being served, in burst Carrie, erroneously thinking the affair was in her honor. She retreated — when no invitation came.

The 22nd Grand Chapter Convention was held in Central City June 13-15, 1911, with Clara Wilson, state president. Eva McEndree served as treasurer of Nebraska Grand Chapter for a few months until she moved from the state. Addie Schiller of Chapter AB was appointed to fill her place, and served from September 1911 to 1913.

P.E.O. is a philanthropic education organization, supporting four major projects: the Educational Loan Fund, Continuing Education grants, and Cottey Junior College. We also support the P.E.O. Home in Beatrice, Nebraska. Chapter AB has sponsored eighteen loan fund girls, and had three who attended Cottey College.

Kathryn Kerr White, a member of the local chapter, served Nebraska State Chapter through all the offices from 1964 to her presidency in 1970-71.

CENTRAL CITY LIBRARY

The Central City Library was organized in 1882, with contributions of books by generous citizens. A room was fitted in the old city hall, over the firetruck house. In 1906, the library was moved to the new Y.M.C.A. Building (the 1981 city hall), where it was located for twenty-three years.

In July 1928, Melvina C. Hards, a former teacher, offered to donate a city library as a memorial to her husband, Ebenezer. Mr. Hards had died in 1902. The couple had no children.

Mrs. Hards and the city purchased the lots east of the post office from Heber Hord. The Hoagland lumberyard was previously located there.

In May 1929, at the age of 91, Mrs. Hards died at her home, 122 D. Street. Only the day before, she had inspected the completed building. The $25,000 Hards Memorial Library was dedicated September 27, 1929. Library contractor Oscar Almquist attended.

In the 1930's and '40's, the basement, intended for a meeting room, became a workshop of service organizations. Overalls, quilts, baby layettes, and bandages were made there. In 1959, the children's library was expanded and moved to the basement.

The library contained 400 books in 1882, 6,000 books in 1929, and over 21,000 loanable materials in 1981. Circulation was 2,000 in 1882, 20,000 in 1929, and 32,478, in 1981.

The library was refurbished in 1981, including the installation of energy-saving windows. In the fifty-two years of its existence, the library has served the needs of the community well, and continues to do so.



Hards Memorial Library

"LONE TREE LITERARY SOCIETY"

Articles of Incorporation of the Lone Tree Literary Society, whose registered office is located in Central City, were filed in the office of the Secretary of State, Allen Beerman, on June 19, 1978. Its purpose is to collect, preserve, and display the literary and photographic work of Wright Morris. Serving as Board of Directors are Barbara Gorgen, president, Gloria McHargue, vice-president, Jackie Sampson, secretary, Lola Ross, treasurer, and Nancy Johnson, historian.



Patterson Law Office — restored by the Lone Tree Literary Society.

The Society listed the Patterson Law Office in the National Register of Historic Places on March 9, 1979, and applied for and received a federal grant of matching funds to restore the building for educational, historical, cultural, and literary purposes.

On November 19, 1980, the Society was notified that the Wright Morris Boyhood Home was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The house is significant to the literary heritage of Nebraska and the nation, as it symbolizes Wright Morris's examinations and reexaminations of his Nebraska childhood in his fiction, essays, and photographs. Central City (originally named Lone Tree, the name which Morris has used in his fiction), appears in several of Morris's most important works. He believes that the years of childhood are seminal to the artist. The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's list of cultural resources worthy of preservation.

The Lone Tree Literary Society plans to restore the Morris home to the period when the author resided there, then open it to the public as a museum. *Submitted by Barbara Gorgen, Pres., Lone Tree Literary Society*

WRIGHT MORRIS, AUTHOR

Wright Morris was born January 6, 1910, at Central City, Nebraska, to William H. and Grace Osborn Morris. His mother died six days after his birth. In 1919, he moved with his father to Omaha, and six years later to Chicago. He attended Pamona College in California.

He is regarded as one of this country's most gifted novelists. He received the National Book Award in 1956 for "The Field of Vision". He was professor of creative writing at California State University in San Francisco from 1962-1975.

Repeatedly, in the course of Wright Morris's work, there is a return to the territory of his birth. He has over thirty books to his credit, and most of the best of them are set in Nebraska. A mature and steady craftsman, he never writes badly; but in order



Wright Morris by Lone Tree Monument.

to write compellingly, he has to return to the plains. No landscape moves him so deeply as the somber, muted plains country; for nowhere else is his depth of reference so nearly absolute. Nowhere in his fiction does emotion emerge from detail so beautifully as in the precise and vivid book "Plains Song", for which he received the 1981 American Book Award.

Wright Morris is an important photographer. His photographs have a clarity of intent, a coherence of statement, a simplicity and directness of method that assures them a place among the best images of their kind. His four photo-text volumes have won him a unique place in contemporary art.

Wright Morris lives with his wife, Josephine, at Mill Valley, California. *Submitted by Barbara Gorgen, President, Lone Tree Literary Society*

"CENTRAL CITY BOOK CLUB"

The Central City Book Club was organized by eight energetic ladies January 24, 1939. Margaret Campbell, Elma Beall, Lucille Hord, Lela Montgomery, Mea Riggs, Clatilla Slegel, and Florence Free formed the group to review books, and enjoy music, plays, or programs of various interests. Upon its inception, the Central City group was certified as a full member in the Country Gentlewoman League which supported intellectual clubs as this.

Community service has had a place in Book Club. A former pet project of the group was the organization of progressive bridge parties raising funds for various charities. Merrick County Historical Museum invited the club to plan and complete a library room at the new museum in 1971. Painting, papering, and selecting area literature to be displayed in the room were involved in this project.

The structure of the club is relaxed, there being no officers. Following an alphabetical order, they meet every two weeks. The membership has expanded to include thirteen members at the present time.

Book Club has been in existence for forty-two years. Reasons for its being are educational as well as social. Hopefully the club will continue to develop during the future.

BETHESDA CARE CENTER

Bethesda Care Center is a sixty bed capacity licensed nursing home. The twenty-five double and fourteen single rooms contained half baths and outlets for T.V. antennas and private phones. The building also houses a barber shop and beauty shop.

The home was built in 1966, when two of the city business men responded to a community need. Mr. Donald Sampson and Mr. Ivan Martson had already successfully built Merrick Manor, a beautiful room and board retirement center. But the people of Merrick County felt a need for a nursing home.

Dr. E.T. Zikmund joined the other two incorporators and the building was started in 1967. The home was originally called Parkview Home, and it opened its doors to those in need in July 1968.

Ten nurses aides assist in the care of patients. They used the five meal plan. Under this plan the residents have early juice at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast at 10:00. A light lunch is served at 1:00 p.m. with regular dinner at 4:30 and a bedtime snack at 8:00.

In April 1970 the Bethesda Foundation purchased the home. At that time the name was changed to Bethesda Center and has remained so ever since. *Submitted by Dick Bauer*

BADER VILLA

Bader Villa, located in southwestern Central City on 28th Street, was named in honor of the primary donors who made it possible: Alfred and Elizabeth Bader. They donated cash to the City of Central City to make possible the building of this low rent housing for the elderly. Alfred and Elizabeth further have furnished and served Christmas supper and the accompanying entertainment to the residents of Bader Villa since 1978. The complex houses thirty-two residents and became a reality in October 1976, America's Bi-Centennial Year. *Submitted by Paula Haynes Bosselman from information by Alfred Bader*

CENTRAL CABLE CORPORATION

In March 1979, the City Council granted a cable TV franchise to Central Cable Corporation after approving a nineteen-page ordinance regulating the franchise.

On Saturday, June 2, 1979, Central Cable Corporation's subscriber information office was opened by President Mike Bittinger. It was located in downtown Central City, in the building formerly occupied by the Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. James Ksiazek, Mrs. John Hummel, and Mrs. Michael Bittinger were the personnel on hand to inform Central Citians of the programming available on cable TV. A variety of visual aids, cassette information, brochures, and program schedule guides were made available. The company offered free installation to those customers signed up early for the service.

In August, 1979, the earth station (dish-shaped receiver) and one hundred feet tall tower was built and located just southwest of the Central City water tower. The station picks up signals from RCA's Satcom I Satellite and the tower receives signals from the three networks and Educational TV.

In September 1979, the crews started the process of laying miles of buried cable. Their work was completed in June 1980. President Bittinger states "We are optimistic about the future of Central City's business community and pledge continuous service to our fellow citizens."



Central Cable's Earth Station at Central City

NITE AND DAY CAFE

Nite and Day Cafe and Truck Stop has been a landmark in Central City since ground was broken for its construction thirty-five years ago. Financed by Alma Oil and operated by the late George and Josephine Cox, the cafe and gas station opened its doors in the spring of 1947. This couple ran the restaurant and station as a combined operation until Mr. Cox's death in 1953. Later, Mrs. Cox sold the station business to Reuben Burbach, but continued to operate the cafe.

Mrs. Cox remodeled the cafe in 1959, adding additional dining space on the east side, constructing the present entryway, and removing the old horseshoe counter which had been a prominent part of the original building.

After operating the cafe for twenty-two years, Mrs. Cox sold the business to Harold and Winifred Smith on February 1, 1969. The Smiths, coming here from Omaha, operated the cafe for the next seven years. In 1971, Gordon Nelson purchased the buildings in which the business was located, constructing additional cafe space, new rest rooms, and a larger office for the gas station.

It was on May 1, 1976, that the cafe came home again to the Eaton family when Duane Eaton, a nephew of Mrs. Cox, bought the business from the Smiths. His wife Bernice, and life-long friend Bob Davis, took over operation of the restaurant, while he remained with his job of eighteen years with Foster Lumber Company. Mrs. Cox died in 1977.

The Eatons enjoy serving customers, and look forward to many more years of seeing old friends and making new ones. *Submitted by Bernice Eaton*



Nite and Day Cafe shortly after opening in 1948.

OMAHA COLD STORAGE

Central City's branch of OCMA Foods started here in 1927, on Highway 30, just east of the Burlington Railroad. The plant employed seventy to eighty-five workers. Approximately 100 families made their livelihood from the plant along with fifteen to twenty more families from nearby towns. This plant grew to be one of the largest businesses since completing a link with the "Food for Victory Chain."

This created a boom to the local farmer to sell poultry and eggs at top prices. The station had a holding and feeding capacity of 11,000 birds, and a killing rate of 700 per hour. The plant would handle over 500 cases of eggs daily. Three train carloads of eggs were shipped in one week to Army camps in Arizona, Florida and Georgia. Strangely enough, this is called "heater territory," and the eggs must be heavily padded to protect them from freezing before they reach the refrigeration area. All cars were iced twice before reaching their destinations. Merrick county servicemen may well be eating produce grown here at home.

There was an egg-breaking process as well. This plant was also a part of the largest packer of eviscerated poultry in the world. Condensing equipment for chickens and turkeys would make a five-pound live weight chicken 'can up' one pound of pure chicken. All of this was carried out under government inspection.

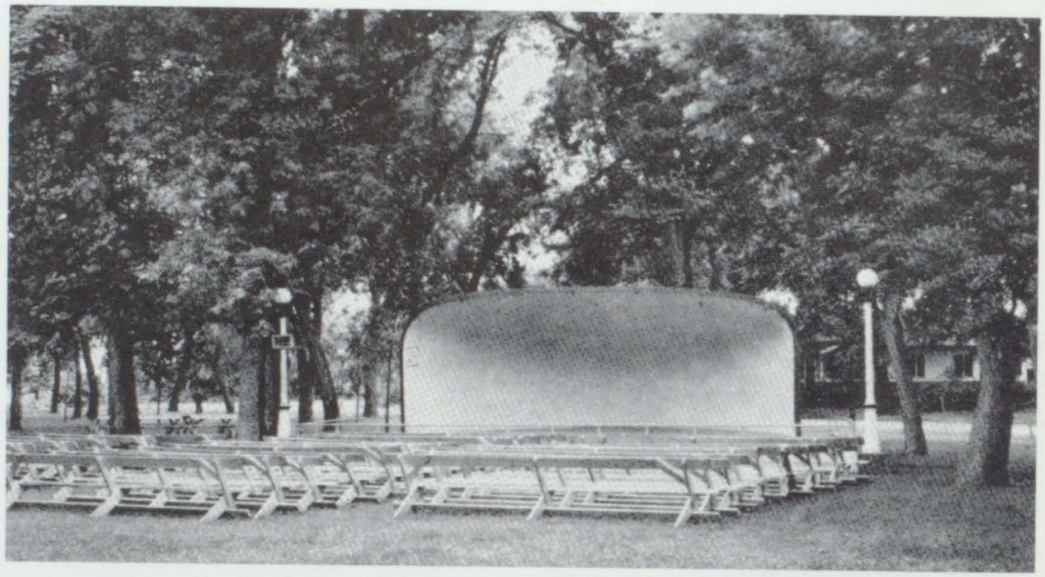
After many good years in Central City, the plant closed and has now been demolished.



Elevator which handles millions of bushels of Merrick County grain.



South Park is now Lone Tree Park.

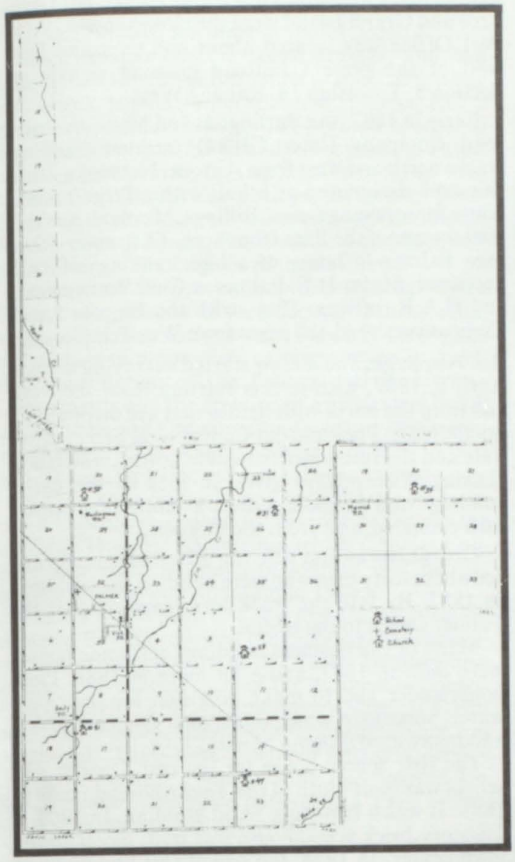


Band Shell at North Park.



Union Pacific Depot which was demolished to make way for the Cargil office and more track.

Loup Township



Loup is, by far, the most irregular-shaped township in Merrick County, and probably in Nebraska, with the north boundary including a nine-mile jet strip between Howard and Nance Counties. Part of the remaining north border is jogged so that the Indian territory (now part of Nance County) could include the Loup River. This does not even follow section lines. The jet strip averages five-eighths of a mile in width. The county board has tried to give it to Howard or Nance Counties because of road and bridge problems. In the days of one-room schools, this strip was part of three different school districts which also included parts of Howard and Nance Counties.

January 3, 1873, Loup Township (precinct #8) was established for the northern part of Merrick County. District #31 schoolhouse was named as the voting place. Officials appointed were: J.M. Donaldson and J.R. Lampson, justices of the peace; M.C. Hutchins and W.E. Marsh, constables; E.N. Parkhurst, assessor; J.R. Hostetter, James M. Donaldson, and W.R. Lebert, election judges; and Elwood McDaniel, and R.S. Wooden, election clerks.

Current township officials are Bill Kucera, Paul Glynn and Lloyd Joseph.

Submitted by Loup Township Chairman, Orville J. Nicholas

PALMER AREA POSTOFFICES

In 1872, a Star Route started delivering and receiving mail at established postoffices in the area. Settlers went to these offices for and with their mail. Bear in mind, no roads or telephones.

George Burlingame operated the first such office at his home on the southeast corner of Section 22, Township 14, Range 8West, starting December 31 1872. In 1875, he moved to Wyoming and H.C. Wells took over the **Burlingame** postoffice at his home, northwest corner of Section 28 of same township, where Charles Tibbetts now resides.

Lester Postoffice, located Northwest Quarter Section 30, Township 15, Range 7, dated February 19, 1878, then on January12, 1880 Sarah E. Knapp became postmistress of **Merrick** at same location.

Amity, located Section 7, Township 14, Range 8West where Otto Schulueter now resides dated November 7, 1879. Information indicates Amity was located three-fourths mile west on south side of road part of the time.

On May 14, 1883, H.M. Cox was appointed postmaster of **Vick** at his soddie in northeast corner of Section 5, Township 14, Range 8West.

All of these terminated as the railroad came through **Palmer** in 1887 and 1888, and took over transporting mails. Palmer's first postoffice of wood stood where Co-op's large steel storage building stands; next it was located in the east part of Peck 1910 brick building; next on the west side of the same building, now used by Golden Rule Electric; finally, in 1961, a new brick building on south side of the street was erected.

Records show the following Palmer postmasters: Mr. L. Brannon, Mr. McGonagle, Mr. Gallagher, George Burlingame, Ben Colborn, Orrin Peck, Albert Ferris, Mrs. Howard Adams, Lafe Simonson, Q.L. Nicholas, and Laura Christensen. *Prepared by O.J. Nicholas*

RURAL FREE DELIVERY SERVICE

Routes one, two and three were originated by J.H. Pemberton, Charles Peck, and J.A. Newman respectively, about 1902. J.A. McClellan replaced Mr. Peck and the routes continued to be served by the same carriers until 1921, when Lynn Ferris was transferred to route two as Mr. McClellan had retired. In 1924, Ferris went to California and Newman retired and Rice and Hodge were transferred to routes three and two respectively. In 1932, Pemberton retired, and his route was divided up between routes two and three. Again the policy was to combine routes to economize. Route three was designated route one, two remained and the combined four and five was three. Until 1957, the rural carriers and routes remained the same with the additions of minor mileages or alterations in travel.

In 1957, Rice retired and Harold Joseph was temporary carrier for the ensuing year. Bob Sullivan was appointed regular carrier in 1958. In 1962, due to the death of Greenway, Jerry Shull was transferred from Central City to route three. Hodge retired in 1960, and Lynn Weber was appointed to his route. On Weber's death in 1967, Milton Suck was appointed to fill the vacancy. After a few months the Postal Department pursued further their policy of consolidation, and transferred him to Fullerton to fill a vacancy there. Thus we find only two routes remaining from an original five. These have increased greatly in mileage due to further consolidations and extensions. The Archer route is now included with the Palmer routes. As of April 1981, Robert Sullivan (route one) serves 103 miles, and Jerry Shull, 105 miles on route two.

Rural routes four and five were the last to be laid out from Palmer. Route four originated in Palmer about 1908, and went to the Glenwood community via Green's corner, thence looping north and east and back to the bridge. Route five was called a "loop route" and originated at Green's corner returning there also to terminate. They were twenty-seven and twenty six miles in length, respectively. Route five was created about 1912, so far as I can ascertain, by a Mr. Crow who relinquished it to Mr. N.E. McCann. Later Mr. Crow returned to take over until Mr. A.R. Hodge was appointed in 1921. Route four was laid out by A.M. Strong about 1908. William Nicholas took it over in 1909. This route was carried at various times by Mr. Crow, N.E. McCann, and finally, Lynn Ferris, who was replaced by Harold Rice in 1921. In 1924, Buren Wells and C.A. Greenway were appointed to routes five and four respectively. In 1929, Buren was transferred to Archer to fill a vacancy there which was the first use of combining routes to economize. Greenway took both mileages making a total of about fifty-five miles. Up to this time the total mileage for the five routes was one hundred thirty-five miles in all.

I would like the privilege of making an additional comment. Sixty years ago this fall, I moved into Palmer from the clay hills of western Nance County. During these sixty years I served thirty-six on rural routes out of Palmer. Successively horses Model Ts, V-8s, Jeeps, and back to economy cars have been used. Roads have progressed from just graded or gravelled, to graded and gravelled, to a considerable amount of oil mat. Gasoline prices ranged from fifteen cents to a dollar and a half. Postage has risen from two cents to eighteen cents per ounce first class. Automobiles cost from four hundred and fifty for the Model T to thousands of dollars today.

This publication will be distributed largely to the rural population. It is my hope we will seriously consider the results of any movement to take from the farmers the benefits of the Rural Delivery Service, the only service designed specifically for them. *Submitted By Harold Rice*

TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

In going back a few years, we find that schools were dotted throughout the area so that children had a maximum of three miles to walk, in contrast to the bus transportation used by the consolidated schools of today.

District #31 was one of Loup's larger districts. The schoolhouse was located in Section 26, Township 15, Range 8, and for a number of years they offered eleven grades.

District #49 (Palmer) offered ten, then eleven, then since 1920, twelve grades. This school is described elsewhere.

In the process of consolidation, *District #41,* of Section 17, Township 14, Range 8 (early years Section 8, Township 14, Range 8) merged with District #45 of Prairie Creek Township to form *District #63,* with the schoolhouse from District # 45 placed on Section 19, Township 14, Range 8.

District # 36 was located in Section 20, Township 15, Range 8. *District #47* was located in Section 23, Township 14, Range 8. *Districts #52, #53,* and *#60* were all located in the strip or jet and went over into Howard or Nance Counties with schoolhouses in the other counties.

In the early 1950's, all the districts consolidated with Palmer School, which had originated in Section 4, Township 14, Range 8 and soon moved to Section 32, Township 15, Range 8.

District #34 was formed November 29, 1872 and discountinued February 10, 1922 and all land within district was included in *District #31. Submitted by Orville Nicholas*

"LOUP VALLEY HOMEMAKERS"

Loup Valley Homemakers Extension Club was organized northeast of Palmer November 1944, at the home of Mrs. Elmer Stone. Mrs. Stanley Whitson, wife of the Merrick County Agent, assisted. There were seventeen charter members: Mesdames Thomas Condell, Gerald Curtis, John Dankert, Leonard Friedrichsen, Frank Freeland, Ernest Glynn, Fred Hobbs, Deid Janssen, Paul Liberty, William O'Hare, Leonard Pelican, Oris Rutten, Joe Santin, Elmer Stone, Gottfrid Stone, Charles VanPelt, and Alice Santin.

We were an Extension Club, participating in county lessons and other activities, until the fall of 1960. At that time, we voted to plan and prepare our own yearly programs, which have included such activities as serving dinner/lunch at the time of bereavement in a member's family, sewing for children's homes, University Hospital and rest homes, entertaining senior citizens, serving lunches at sales, cleaning our local District #31 schoolhouse each August, preparing food lessons, book reports, guest days, and tours, and parties which included our husbands.

We have continued this program for twenty years; the officers planning for each upcoming year. Our



Loup Valley Homemakers — 1946

current membership includes Mesdames Thure Anderson, Eldon Bankson, Thomas Condell, Willis Dankert, Glen Dugger, Ernest Glynn, Lee Glynn, Dale Gress, Fred Hobbs, Bill Kucera, Leonard Pelican, Darrel Lockwood, Dan Samuelson, Bernard Samuelson, Robert Sullivan, and Charles VanPelt, five of which are charter members.

Pictured (taken in 1946) from left to right: Esther VanPelt and Mary, Loretta Dankert, Helen Hobbs, Doris Glynn, Alice Santin, Laurette Santin and Dennis, Patricia O'Hare, Esther Condell, Vera Friedrichsen, Amy Andrews and baby, Ada Pelican and Carol Jean. *Submitted by Esther Condell*

"MODERN MOMS"

Modern Moms was organized in September, 1967, as an extension club with eight members: Jan Murry, Sandy Schlueter, Vicki Zehr, DeLores Valasek, Shirley Woods, Sandy Bandura, Liana Spitz, and Linda Green. The club remained in extension for the first seven years.

In 1974, the members voted to become a community club, so they renamed, Modern Moms Civic Club. The club goals included sending cards to the elderly of the community, honoring a Palmer Good Neighbor during the Fall Festival, and giving a senior citizens' party each year.

The club has installed drapes in the Palmer old gym, given Easter egg hunts, given mother-daughter teas, entertained the nursing home, and furnished a lunch stand at the annual Fall Festival.

Alumni members are Pam Bandt, Kathy Olsen, Lida Friedrichsen, Jeanette Haag, Jean Hinkle, Dorothy Krance, Janet Klein, Betti Dailey, Joyce Turpitt, Linda Melasker and Millie Simcox. Active members are Carol Peterson, Peggy Stillman, Eilene Burkhardt, Louise Davison, Georgetta Platt, Darlene Suck, Rhonda Trotter, Jeannene Burdett, and (original members for thirteen years) Shirley Woods and DeLores Valasek.

Modern Moms holds an open membership, and meets each month except June, July, and August. *Submitted By Shirley Woods*

"P.A.L. 70"

The first organizational meeting of P.A.L. 70 Extension Club was held on Thursday evening, November 13, 1969. The club selected the name P.A.L. 70, meaning participation, awareness and learning, and indicating that the club was organized in the 1970 club year. Members of the club during that first year were Mrs. John Arnold, Mrs. Orville Blauhorn, Mrs. Ben Gabriel, Mrs. Howard Holbgewachs, Mrs. Gary Jurgens, Mrs. Warren Lambert, Mrs. Deward McIntosh, Mrs. Dan Reed, and Mrs. Harold Rudolf.

In 1980, the club membership consists of the following members: Mrs. Thomas Andrews, Mrs. Orville Blauhorn, Mrs. Glen Dugger, Mrs. David Kassing, Mrs. Warren Lambert, Mrs. Deward McIntosh, Mrs. Ray Ortegren, Mrs. Harold Rudolf, Mrs. Carl Samuelson, Mrs. Joseph Santin, and Mrs. Merton Weller. The club is celebrating ten years of continuous and active participation in extension activities. Three of the present members of P.A.L. 70 Extension Club, Melba Ortegren, Barbara Blauhorn and Marjorie Rudolf, have served as Chairman of the Merrick County Extension Council.

The involvement in extension activities has been a rewarding learning experience, enriching the lives of the members of this club. *Submitted by Mrs. Harold Rudolf*

"IT SUITS US CLUB"

It Suits Us Club was started in the early thirties by a few women who were tired of Parliamentary rules, officers, dues, committees, and such. They just wanted to meet together, bring their fancy work, mending, or whatever, and spend the afternoon together. There were five of them at first, Mrs. Connie Rusmisell, Mrs. Gretchen Fisher, Mrs. Rhoda Connell, Mrs. Myra Newlon, and Ethel Newlon. But soon the word got around, and others wanted to join, and soon there were a dozen or more. They met in each other's homes, once a month, and to keep it simple, the hostess could serve only one other thing with coffee. Several names were suggested, and finally they agreed on "It Suits Us."

Some of those early members were Mrs. Ethel Herring, Mrs. Laura Forbes, Mrs. Longacre, Mrs. Rosa Bahnson, Mrs. Sarah Randals, Mrs. Milda Simonson, Mrs. Minnie Greenway, Mrs. Jo Best, Mrs. Ellen McKenney, and Elizabeth Dinsdale.

In later years, a penny offering was taken each time, to send cards to sick members or to bereaved families. Then they decided to give to the Heart Fund, the Cancer Drive, and other such needs, and for several years the members each donated a glass of homemade jelly to send to the Nebraska Children's Home Society. But the main purpose has been just to get together for a social time, and "it just suits us!" *Submitted by Ruth McKenney*

"PALMER SOUTH SIDE CLUB"

The Palmer South Side Club was organized as a social club December 15, 1921, at the home of Mrs. Harry Weber in Gage Valley. Charter members were: Mrs. Harry Weber, Mrs. Joe Nicholas, Mrs. Lisle Colborn, Mrs. Mark Colborn, Mrs. Alvah Gee, Mrs. E.J. Lamberson, Mrs. Alvah Nicholas, Mrs. Glen Nicholas, Mrs. Guy Nicholas, Mrs. Lloyd Weber, Mrs. Gus Schlueter and Mrs. Hardekopf.

On January 23, 1925, the club became a Federated Women's Club. Dues at that time were five cents and the meetings were held twice a month, on the second and fourth Thursday. Later the meetings were changed to the third Friday, and the dues at the present time are twenty-five cents a month.

The club joined the Nebraska Council of Home Demonstration Clubs and remained an extension club until 1973. The Palmer South Side Club has had a float entry in the Palmer Fall Festival each year since its beginning.

Present club members are: Laura Aschwege, Linda Brewer, June Davis, Jean Joseph, Carole Joseph, Marie Joseph, Clarice Lamberson, Minnie O'Hare, Mary Lou O'Hare, Jocelyn Nicholas, Melba Ortegren, Sally Pichler, Lucile Rudolf, Helen Schlueter, Vicki Simonson, and Gertrude Andrews.

"MARANATHA LADIES"

Palmer Maranatha Ladies Fellowship Luncheons started as an idea tossed about at a ladies' home Bible study. A handful of ladies had a desire for pentecostal worship. Out of this desire, Maranatha became a reality, in November 1977.

Maranatha took form under the leadership of Mrs. Richard Woods, Mrs. Don Horner, Mrs. Carol Peterson, Mrs. Lee Horner, Lois Tibbetts, and Mrs. Dorothy Nicholas. The program was built around worship through song, sharing, praying, and a special spirit-filled guest speaker.

Since its beginning, we have shared in evening meetings with the men in the spring and fall. Ladies attend from Fullerton, Central City, Wolbach, St. Paul, and Grand Island.

Maranatha, which meets the second Thursday of each month, is for all denominations who wish to draw closer to the God of the Bible. *Submitted by Lois Tibbetts*

PALMER HISTORY

On May 14, 1883, H.M. Cox was appointed Postmaster of Vick. There were already several soddies in the area and a few frame homes, but Lone Tree and Grand Island were the closest towns. Vick Post Office was located about one thousand feet west of the present railroad crossing signals in Section 5, Township 14, Range 8West.

Early in 1887, the Burlington and Missouri Railroad Company (later CB&Q) started building tracks north and west from Aurora, Nebraska, with this area designated as a hub with a large roundhouse for servicing trains. Billings, Montana was the goal for one of the lines from here. They named this area Palmer in honor of a high ranking railroad executive, Major H.E. Palmer, a Civil War veteran and G.A.R. officer. They, with the Lincoln Land Company secured 480 acres from Wes Templin and Ben Alspaugh, and a crew started surveying a town April 5, 1887, with streets starting from the west and from the north with names that are difficult, to say the least. They laid out Commercial Street extra wide and the rest wider than most towns, which is a blessing. The picture gives an idea of the early buildings and flagpole. Later, a block-long center curb extended west from the flagpole.

George Spray and wife ran a boarding camp and fed about forty men who were building the buildings in 1887. By fall, the track was complete past the Palmer Depot to the trestle.

Many of the business buildings and some houses were built in 1887, and a lot more in 1888. Each householder had to make provision for their own water. Some used wind power, some gasoline power, and many used a pump handle.

The first school house for the new District #49 school was built south of the Tom Andrews home in 1888. It was a two-story wood building. In 1909, a 2½-story brick schoolhouse was built closer to the town center. In 1924, the size of this building was doubled with a gymnasium in the basement. In 1961, after much consolidation, a new brick and steel school house was built one-fourth mile west of the town center.

The Church of Christ building was built in 1887-1888; the Methodist Church building was started in 1893; the Episcopal Church building was built in 1894-1895; the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church erected a building in 1907.

Some of the other businesses which we have record of are two lumber yards; one brick manufacturing business; three department stores; three hotels; two livery barns; one flour mill; two elevators; three implement stores; numerous cafes; two hardware stores; a butter-making creamery, and many cream buyers; three auto agencies with mechanics available and gas pumps in front; one cement block manufacturing plant with cement work equipment operated through the years by the Place family; a real estate office; a hatchery; a bakery; a theater; a wagon manufacturing place; many blacksmith shops; three barbershops; two banks; a butcher shop; a shoe store; two shoe repair shops; a jewelry store; a photography gallery; a millinery store; two feed stores; an egg-producing industry; a bowling alley; a pool hall; a jail; two electric generating stores; numerous beauty parlors; community stock yards with livestock buyers; several grocery stores; and, I suppose, many more. You see that before the days of rapid transportation, patrons could get anything they needed locally.

Palmer had hitching posts along both sides of Commercial Street, and some on side streets. Saturday was the day most farmers chose to trade their produce for articles they desired, and the stores would stay open late to accommodate them. When we were blessed by the electric generator on the south side of Commercial Street, the lights would blink at 10:45 p.m. and would go off at 11 p.m. When the village built the municipal plant on the north side, the lights would stay on all of the time.

In 1919, the village put up a water supply tank and trenched in water lines for hydrants and home use where desired. This, and the organization of the Palmer Fire Department, has greatly reduced the fire loss in Palmer.

Palmer was the smallest town on the Red Path Horner Chatauqua circuit for several years, and

received excellent entertainment from that source. Each summer when the company would set up a circus tent on the old school ground, people would drive horses (or later cars) from a large area to avail themselves of this high class entertainment, afternoon and evening, for three or four days.

Stock companies gave plays, dramas, and had some acrobats in tents from time to time. Wrestling was also a popular entertainment. Palmer had a gymnasium about 1913 or 1914 which sponsored boys' and girls' basketball and roller skating. Palmer had a golf course, first on the Daily farm, then later at the William Campbell pasture where Dinsdales' south yards are now. Dances were a common form of entertainment. Fourth of July and Memorial Day were well-observed patriotic days.

Some of the more recent improvements have been the graveling of most of the streets, and the gradual adding of oil mats to them since the early 1960's; the installation of a complete sewage system in 1967; the consolidation of the Palmer and Rural Fire Departments and the erection of a large steel building for their use and community use; a new swimming pool in 1976; a new volleyball court in 1978; a batting cage in 1979, etc. are other improvements.

In 1976, the new Coolidge Center, across from the new school house, opened for business to replace the Coolidge Hospital Sanitarium which Charles Coolidge had given so much of himself and his life savings to build and maintain in 1916.

Thanks to the push of a few and the cooperation of many, Palmer received the Nebraska Community Improvement Award in 1975, after cleaning up a lot and rejuvenating most of the business buildings.

In the early 1970s, an Emergency Medical Training group was organized and a large ambulance was purchased. They have rendered splendid service (needed desperately since losing our beloved Dr. Racines) and have since purchased a 1980 ambulance with even better equipment.

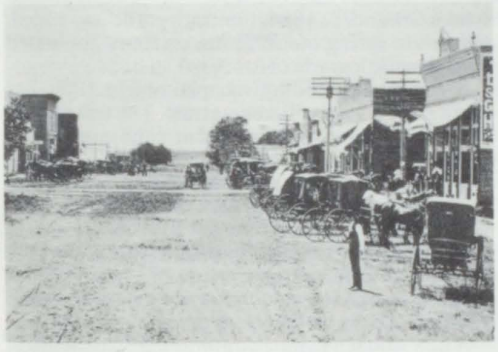
This has been but a brief summary of Palmer's history, and I apologize for not putting in everything of interest to everyone. *Submitted by Orville J. Nicholas*



1909 scene, taken from high window in Dinsdale's wooden elevator.



A group of early Palmer businessmen.



Palmer Main Street — 1914



A Palmer Town Band.

NEWSPAPERS

Palmer has been home to several newspapers, dating from when the community began to thrive. The first publication of **The Palmer Sun** was October 7, 1887. **The Palmer Express** put out its first edition December 15, 1890. April 5, 1901, was the first edition of **The Palmer Record. The Palmer Echo** was first published March 18, 1903. **The Herald** began publication on July 16, 1909. **The Palmer Journal,** still publishing today, was first published June 19, 1911.

Not all the editors of **The Journal** are recorded, unfortunately, but Perry Gage served in that capacity for a number of years before selling to Miner E. Harris. Mr. Harris served as publisher for some forty years. He trained several young men who have in turn gone into the newspaper field, including Lloyd Reeves and Delmar Hood. He also trained H. Warren Rice, who purchased the paper in 1955, operating it until 1959, when Mr. Harris resumed management.

In June 1974, **The Journal** once again changed hands. Richard Woods, another trainee of Mr. Harris, who began working at the paper when he was only eight years old and hardly tall enough to reach the table tops without standing on a box, became the owner of the publication. Before purchasing the paper from Mr. Harris, Dick had a short employment period as a shop foreman of **The Crane News,** Crane, Texas, before returning to Palmer.

Since 1964, **The Palmer Journal** has made a number of changes, not only in size, going from eight to sixteen pages, but other improvements as well. There has been an increase in subscriptions, a new building in 1969, and a modern off-set printing method installed in 1976. The paper also gained a weekly companion, **The Twin City Post,** printed for the villages of Clarks and Silver Creek. **The Post** was established by Mr. Woods in the spring of 1972, to fill the void in those two towns after their papers, which had been operated by John Carter, suspended operation. *Submitted by Dick Woods*



LOCAL DOCTORS

For a small town of under 600 population, Palmer has had many doctors. Dr. Hooshaw was the first, and Dr. Racines was the last. Both endured more hardships than any of the other doctors due to bad accounts, severe weather, and bad roads. They were truly rural doctors.

Dr. C.S. Minnich arrived in 1900. He was doctor, dentist, occulist, pediatrician, and surgeon. He ground telescopic lens and owned the drugstore.

Dr. Crutcher was followed by Dr. White. (There may have been others.) Dr. Arrasmith came before our involvement in World War I. He later married Jean Minnich, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Minnich. During the Spanish influenza of 1918 and 1919, Dr. Arrasmith was so busy and so tired that he hired a driver to take him to his patients. Before the epidemic was past, Dr. Arrasmith was offered an opening



Dr. Charles Paxton, his daughter Grace and his wife Louise (Wagner) Paxton

for further training at Rochester, with the Mayo Brothers, which he accepted.

Dr. Synalec came at that time, and lived in the hospital. Following him was Dr. Hyland, who would have stayed longer but his wife, with her brother and his wife, were victims of a holdup near a street car in Omaha. Mrs. Hyland was killed. Dr. Hyland soon left Palmer.

Dr. Schaller followed him, and later Dr. Paxton. It was while Dr. Paxton was here that Dr. Racines came, so we had two doctors at the same time. This continued after Dr. Paxton moved to Idaho, as Dr. Reils and Dr. Pelican (brothers-in-law) followed. Dr. Pelican did not stay very long. Dr. Reils was here several years during the thirties and into the forties.

Dr. Racines continued on, spending his entire life working in Palmer, except for a few years at the Soldiers and Sailors Home in Grand Island. He then returned to Palmer where he later retired in 1969 — the last of the Palmer doctors.

George Olsen, a chiropractor, practiced here during the teens. Dr. Crawford, a dentist, came to Palmer in 1926 and moved to St. Paul in 1942. *Submitted by Roy Newlon*

PALMER RESCUE SQUAD



Ambulance used and staffed by the Palmer Rescue Squad, purchased in 1980

The Palmer Rescue Squad was organized in March 1971. A 1970 International Ambulance was purchased at that time.

The first emergency service was operated by firemen who had first aid training. The first year of operation, twenty patients were transported.

Since the early emergency service, the training and techniques have changed substantially. Now to be a member of the squad, each member has to complete an eighty-one-hour training course to be a Certified Emergency Medical Technician-Ambulance. Every two years, they have to complete a thirty-hour refresher course. The EMT-A's try to stay up-dated by attending special training sessions.

In 1980, the squad made sixty-six calls and had twenty-six active members. In December, 1980, a new ambulance was purchased with donations from the community and surrounding area. *Submitted by Milton Suck*

"TWO ADVENTUROUS BOYS"

Fred Deertz was born in 1842, in Germany. Before he was quite seventeen years of age, he and another boy, to avoid the army, started out in a boat for America. They were picked up by a British freighter bound for Australia, where Fred spent fifteen years.

It was still in the days of sail boats, so it took 101 days to go from Australia to New York. Having seen enough water for one lifetime, he went to the depot to buy a ticket inland. The ticket agent asked him where he wanted to go. He replied, "The middle of the United States." The ticket agent, looking on the map, found "Central City." Concluding that this was the center, he sold him a ticket to Central City, Nebraska.

The first man he met there was Charles Coolidge, and Fred went to work for him. Later he farmed in Loup Valley, northeast of Palmer.

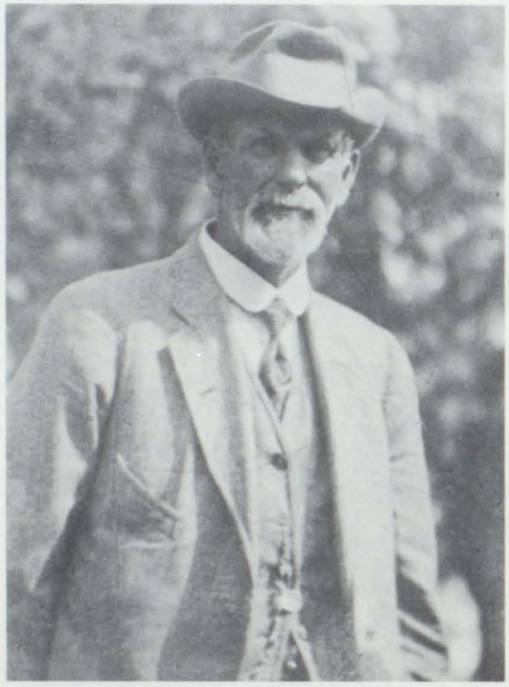
Mr. Coolidge was a Union soldier. He later claimed two ages — his Bible age, sixteen, and his government age, eighteen, letting him join the army. After the war he worked hard and acquired, I have been told, three quarters of land. Then he lost his two children: the daughter not yet of age, and his son, Ernest, who graduated from Omaha Business College on Thursday, died Saturday, and was buried Monday.

Later, while living in Palmer, he wanted his property to help others, so the Coolidge Hospital and Sanitarium was built in 1916. He matched funds with those of the community who would contribute, on a fifty fifty basis. He also gave a quarter-section of land to help support the hospital so any one without money could be taken care of free. Later, the hospital was used for a rest home and finally given, together with the land and some cash, to Bob Hindman to build the present rest home in Palmer.

Strange but true, Grandma Deertz, wife of Fred Deertz, took care of Mr. Coolidge during some of his latter days in her home in Palmer, as there was no one to take care of him in the hospital. *Submitted by Roy Newlon*

COOLIDGE HOSPITAL AND SANITORIUM

Charles Coolidge, son of John Coolidge, came to Nebraska about 1872, and took up farming in Prairie Creek Township. He lost his wife and both children to death before his retirement.



Charley Coolidge — founder of Coolidge Hospital and Sanitarium.

He accumulated some wealth, and to use this wealth worthily, he desired to build a hospital at Central City if others would help. M.V. Lambert persuaded him to build it in Palmer. In 1915, a fund drive netted enough matching funds to construct a fine brick building. The Coolidge Hospital and Sanitarium was incorporated November 23, 1915, as a nonprofit organization. It was built in the northwest corner of Palmer during 1916 and '17, and a quarter section of land was given to the corporation by Mr. Coolidge as an endowment.

Due to advanced medical law requirements, the status was changed to "rest home" in 1957. Later, rest home regulations were changed, and the institution was closed in 1974.

After acquiring the assets of the old Coolidge institution, the Darr Avenue Partnership built a fine new Coolidge Center and guaranteed to operate it for ten years. This facility opened its doors February 5, 1976. Lizzie Zlomke, William Lautenschlager, and Minor Harris were some of the first residents. *Submitted by Shirley Stratman and Orville Nicholas*



Coolidge Hospital and Sanitarium Built in 1917.



Coolidge Center — successor to the Coolidge Hospital and Sanitarium. Built in 1976

SCHOOL DISTRICT #49

Merrick County School District #49 was organized in 1885, and a one-room school house was built on the east side of the road south of Etoile Gee's place in the southeast corner of the present townsite, northwest corner of Section 33, Township 15, Range 8.

The town was laid out in 1887, and a new two-story building for grades one through eight was built on the southeast corner of what we call the Old School Ground. In 1894, the ninth grade was added, and in the spring of 1895, ten students graduated from the ninth grade.

A new brick building was planned in 1909, but only half of it was built at that time. The tenth grade was added, and the high school and the seventh and eighth grades occupied the upstairs. The third through sixth grades occupied the two first-floor rooms, and the primary grades the basement.

In 1912 the eleventh grade was added, and in 1920, the twelfth grade, making it a full four-year high school. A few years later, in 1924, the original plan was completed, adding a gymnasium and more classroom space on the east side.

A new wooden gymnasium was built just south of the brick building in 1953. Hot lunches were first served in this building.

More room was needed and on January 1, 1962, equipment and students from kindergarten through twelfth grades moved into a nice new building just west of Palmer.

The old brick building was demolished, but the gymnasium built in 1953 is still used for many purposes. *Submitted by Lois Tibbetts*



Present-day Palmer School District #49 Built in 1961

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church was organized in 1901, by Pastor J.D. Schroeder, pastor at Worms, who had been holding services in Palmer on Sunday afternoons at the Christian Church. At the organization, it was given the name of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. A constitution was adopted and the members who signed the constitution, becoming charter members, were Wm. Quant, Robert Zuehlke, Bruno Burkhardt, Karl Leffelbein, Karl Rudolf, Jr., August Rochlitz, Adam Doncheske, Karl Rudolf, Sr., Herman Luebke, Henry Albers, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dankert.

The first church was built in 1907, 24 x 32, at a cost of $1297.15, and served the congregation for forty-two years. In 1949, a new brick church was built, and the old church was sold to the Nazarenes and moved across the block. In 1976, an addition was added to the church for a social hall, Sunday School rooms, church office, work area, kitchen and restrooms. Pastors serving this congregation through the years are J.D. Schroeder, K. Jahn, Wm. Ludwig, Martin Jung, Hogo Degner, Bruno Holm, Theo. Droegemueller, K.H. Tiemann, D.A. McCollough, and R.L. Fitzpatrick.

At the present time there are about 230 members, 180 communicant members, Sunday School classes, Bible classes, Ladies Aid and Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

The present officers of the congregation are: Edwin Kanter, executive director; Alfred Schlueter, assistant executive director; Willis Dankert, treasurer; Donna Kunze, secretary; director of various boards are Albert Meyer, Weldon Hake, Donald Fechtner, Marlon Meyer, Louis Dankert, Donna Kunze, Mae Thede, and Joyce McNeff. *Submitted by Mae Thede*

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Organization of the church has been dated April 20, 1888, and reads: "We the undersigned, brethren and members of the Church of Christ at Palmer, Nebraska, do hereby covenant with each other that we will keep *all* the ordinances and commandments of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as taught in the New Testament, and pledging each other to do all in our power to promote the peace, unity, and prosperity of this church and extend the Kingdom of Christ in *all* the world." This was signed by these charter members: M/M H.M. Cox, M/M N.C. Arrants, Chester Green, Emma Cox, M/M J.H. Applegate, M/M J.A. Liese, M/M A.M. Templin, M/M Michael Blade.

*H.M. Cox, and J.H. Appelgate were the first elders. The original sanctuary, 30 x 50 feet, was dedicated July 7, 1888, at a cost of $2,000.

In 1891, the women organized the Willing Workers.

In 1913, the building was elevated for full basement, baptistry, and east addition at a cost of $2,000.

In 1935, the present parsonage was acquired.

In 1949, the vestibule and outside steps were replaced by the present entrance at a cost of $3,660.



1888



1963

Church of Christ

In 1951, the restrooms were completed at a cost of $600. The sanctuary was refinished in 1954 by Ray Hunt, and indirect lighting was installed.

New Pews were added in 1968.

Air conditioning was installed in 1979*.

The church has always stressed missions, thus sharing with others instead of stressing luxury.

May we ever uphold Christ and be an honor to our forefathers. *Submitted by the elders of the church*

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In the late 1870's, before there was even a town of Palmer, the need for a church became evident. A Methodist Society was formed and met in a country school until 1888, when the Church of Christ was built. The society used their facilities part-time for a brief period, but then moved to the old opera house. Finally, on January 20, 1889, seventeen members joined together to organize officially the Palmer Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1892 a young Irishman named Thomas Peter Donnely came to town. Although educated as a Roman Catholic Priest, Donnely liked the ways of the church and joined the Nebraska Conference. That fall he held a revival and sixty new members were added to the church roll. The need for a building became pressing, and a cornerstone was laid under Donnely's direction. The new building was dedicated in November 1893.

The church continued to grow and, by 1929, the need for a larger building became evident. Plans were started, but a hailstorm ruined crops and caused a set-back. Thanks to the enthusiasm of the minister, E.H. Tipton, a loan was secured and the new building was built. The cornerstone was laid on August 22, 1929, and the building was dedicated on November 29, 1929. The debt was retired in 1943.

By the mid-1950's there was again need for more space, and plans were begun to build yet another church. On September 16, 1962, the educational wing was dedicated, followed by the sanctuary, December 15, 1968.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

This church was started in 1950, in the W.W. Stearman home. Later on, the old Lutheran Church was purchased and moved to its present site. The Church of the Nazarene has been more than a ten percent church for world missions for twenty-three years. Goldie Stearman is the pastor. *Submitted by Goldie Stearman*

ROSEHILL CEMETERY

In pioneer days the dead were buried on a hill, in the back field, or in the corner of a field.

On December 10, 1873, Salissa M. Alspaugh died and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alspaugh gave title to the property that constitutes Rosehill Cemetery for a burying ground. Before family plots were set out, the dead were buried in a row as they died. Some plots would accomodate twelve burials, some six, and later, some only two.

Near the turn of the century, iron gates were installed at the west center.

Descendents were expected to care for the graves and lots of their deceased. Some were well cared for and some received no care.

For many years the American Legion sponsored an annual clean-up day in May.

The sale of perpetual care was introduced in October 1941, at fifty dollars per lot with only the interest to be used each year. Now perpetual care is sold with each lot before interment can be made.

In 1952, a new decorative fence was installed along the west side. Some questioned the necessity of a fence around a cemetery, claiming that "those buried there cannot leave and those outside do not want in."

Finding that the cemetery was within Palmer city limits, in 1977 Palmer started contributing $500 per year toward upkeep.

We do not know where Mr. and Mrs. Alspaugh were buried, but apparently they were not returned to the cemetery they had given. *Submitted by Orville J. Nicholas*



United Methodist Church

"ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA"

The history of a fraternal lodge in Palmer began many years ago. The original charter was issued December 16, 1905, by Deputy Supreme Oracle, Josephine Stonesefer of the Royal Neighbors of America. The lodge was to be known as Golden Rod Camp 2265, Royal Neighbors of America, with twenty-two charter members organizing the local camp. Original membership is listed on the charter. Members included early citizens of Palmer, including the Knapp, Curtis, Davis, McCann, McClellan and Strong families.

Ritualistic work was the agenda for camp meetings as was a business meeting, followed by refreshments and fellowship. The meetings were held once a month.

Palmer hosted district meetings several times and participated, had a capable drill team, and performed for special occasions.

The camp grew in numbers. At one time, almost forty ladies and gentlemen joined for the fraternal membership. Those who could not qualify for insurance became social members.

Later a juvenile camp was organized, carrying out a program of ritual work. Mothers of the juveniles planned parties for the group on special holidays.

Membership has decreased as older members passed on. For the past few years we have met in the homes of members each month, with the exception of the summer months, for a business meeting, enjoying noon luncheons, Christmas parties, card playing and helping each other when the occasion arises. Regular members still attending are Mmes M. Bahensky, N. Butler, D. Glynn, F. McElvain, A. Prince, F. Reynolds, L. Snyder, C. Stratman.

Membership in Royal Neighbors of America indicates caring and consideration of others. *Submitted by Alice Prince, Receiver*



Fall Festival Parade. Palmer received the Nebraska Community Improvement Award in 1975.

"PALMER WOMEN'S CLUB"

The "Twentieth Century Club" was organized in 1919, and federated in 1920. There were fifteen charter members. In 1925, the name was changed to "The Palmer Women's Club."

The club has always met in private homes. For many years the group met twice a month from October through May. We now meet once a month, with our first meeting in October, and always end with the traditional breakfast in May. Our present membership is twenty-one.

The Palmer Women's Club has been involved in all community projects through the years. Our present activities include entertaining the Senior Citizens once a year at the new Coolidge Center.

The club conducts a vision-screening clinic for pre-schoolers in the spring under the auspices of the Nebraska Society for the Prevention of Blindness. Each year we contribute to a local scholarship fund for the local high school seniors.

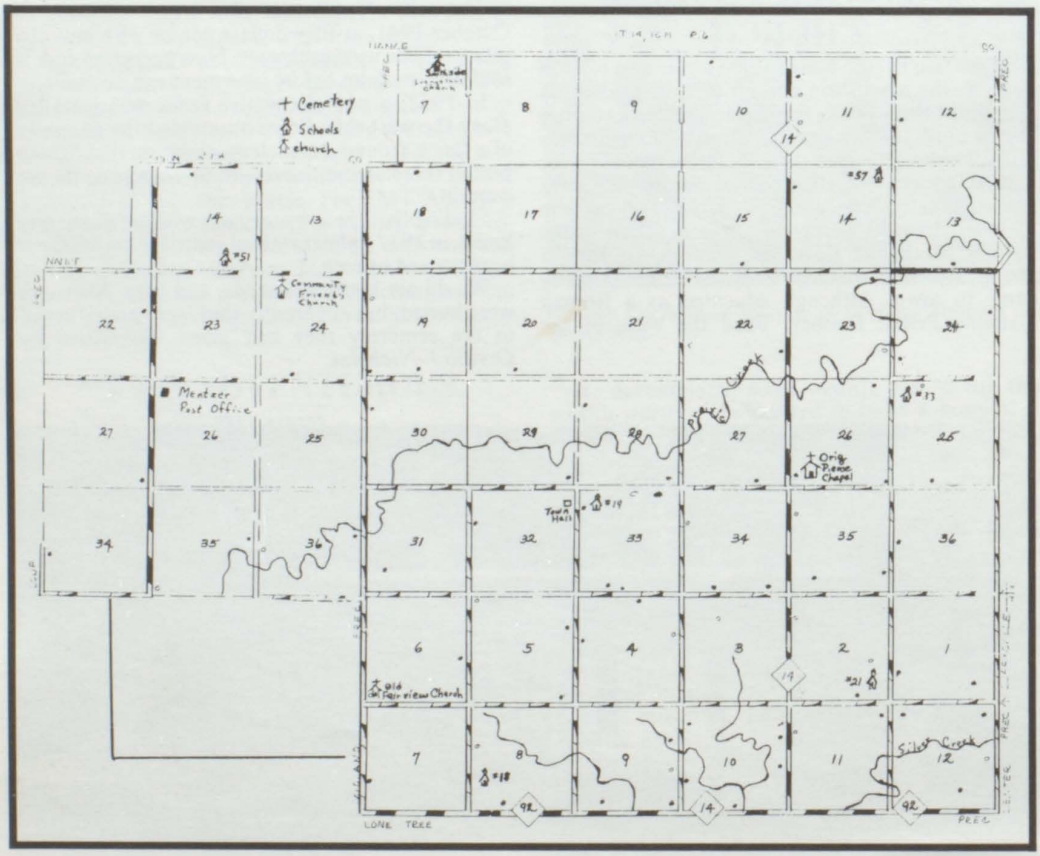
The club helped lead several fund drives, such as the Cancer Society, Heart Fund, and also the March of Dimes. This past year we raised money for new flower pots to help decorate the main street of Palmer.

The club disbanded from the National Women's Club Federation in the year 1976, and now have our own private club, and the main programs are in the fields of fine arts, homemaking, and civic responsibilities. *Submitted by Carol Lemmerman*



Loup River bridge North of Palmer, August 1972. It was replaced by a new bridge in 1979.

Mead Township



Mead Township (precinct #6) was created January 3, 1873, with the District #19 schoolhouse designated as the voting place. Officials appointed were: E.H. Wilder and B.F. Tullis, justices of the peace; J.C. LeMasters and Charles Traver, constables; Nelson Barnes, assessor; Charles E. Mead, H.D. Reynolds, and H.W. Bryant, election judges; and John Thompson and R.C. Barker, election clerks.

In 1890, the Township Clerk, Treasurer and Justice of the Peace conducted meetings in the grader house. Roads, bridges and appointment of the Precint Road Overseers were their responsibility.

In 1892, the Treasurer collected State and County Consolidated, Soldiers' Retirement, Township and School taxes. The Clerk recorded minutes and issued warrants. The Justice of the Peace looked after Deeds, Chattel mortgages, and Petit cases.

A "New Era Grader" was purchased in 1905 for $1000. The Operator received $2 per day and furnished the team.

The assessed valuation in Mead in 1913, was $283,500.

In 1914, a man and team for road work received $3.50 for a ten hour day.

In 1916, a Town Hall was built in the Northeast Quarter Section 32, Township 15, Range 6, to be used as a voting place and for Board meetings. Bids were let to Obed Angier, Concrete Works, Central City; for Cement Blocks @ 8¢, Concrete work @ 25¢ hour, Expert labor @ 50¢ hour, Carpentry @ 40¢ hour, Board to haul all supplies. The desk cost $12.60, twelve chairs — $9.80, and lumber — $132.90.

Women were permitted to vote in 1918, using a separate ballot box in case their votes weren't legal.

The grader house was sold in 1947 for $155.50.



Mead Town Hall (1981)

The Hall became unusable and 1976 was the last year it was used for an election. In 1978, voting was done at Freed's Corner and in 1980 at Fairview church.

1980 assessed valuation — $6,608,795. Township Board President: Roy Creutzberg; Treasurer: Carroll Johnston; Clerk: Ed Kyes.

Mead Township is in the north-central part of Merrick County, next to what was the Pawanee Indian Reservation before the Indians were sent to Oklahoma and Nance County was organized.

It is believed that the Great Pawanee Chief, Petalesharo, is buried in Mead, but his grave has not definitely been located. Petalesharo was the one who put an end to the gruesome religious rite practiced by the Pawanee for centuries — that of sacrificing a young woman, captured from another tribe, to please their most powerful god — the great star Saturn. The Mormons crossed this area and there are Mormon graves here. Other unmarked family burial plots also exist.

John Burgess was in charge of Mentzer Post Office, located in Northwest Quarter Section 26, Township 15, Range 7, from November 26, 1879 to January 27, 1886. Mr. Kenoyer operated a general store and the Post Office at Sunrise, in the Northeast Quarter Section 7, Township 15, Range 6. The Post Office was in existence from June 19, 1899 until November 17, 1906.

About 1910, a private telephone line, known as the Bob-tail Line, connected some homes in the north part of the township. A few years later, a group of farmers organized the Mead Telephone Company, sold shares of stock, built and maintained a telephone line that reached to Central City. An arrangement was made for Northwestern Bell to do the switching at the telephone office in Central City. There were three lines: 143, 175, and 179, with about ten subscribers on each. The line was completely rebuilt in 1956, and in 1960 Northwestern Bell bought the line and the Mead Telephone Company was dissolved. *Submitted by Township Chairman, Donna Ferris*

SUNRISE

Sunrise was named for its view of sunrise, and started in the late 1890's by F.M. Kenoyer. It was a store, post office, and blacksmith shop in Mead Precinct located at Northeast Quarter, Section 7, Township 15, Range 6. The postoffice was established June 19, 1899, and discontinued November 17, 1906.

Burt Day started carrying the mail on the route, and continued carrying until he quit on a pension. The Post Office was located on what is now the Elmer Patton farm in Merrick County, and close to the Nance County line, 14¼ miles northwest of Central City.

The Kenoyer family had a sale around 1920 and sold their merchandise at auction. They later disposed of their real estate and moved to Fullerton.

There was a school one mile west, called Sunrise School.

There has been a sign placed on the site of Sunrise. *Submitted by Marvin Garrett*



Bicentennial sign erected in 1976

SCHOOLS

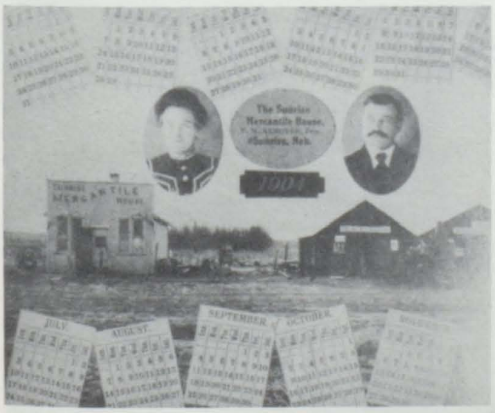
In October 1871, Charles E. Mead was appointed County Superintendent of Public Instruction, Merrick County, Nebraska, and charged with the task of dividing the county up so that no pupil would have to travel an excessive distance to attend school. He promptly began to set boundaries and to call voters together to organize school districts.

At one time there were six school districts in Mead Township. Students attended irregularly during the busy times on the farm when they were needed at home to help plant or harvest. Terms usually lasted for three months, and there were three terms per year. All who have attended a one-room rural school before 1930 share similar recollections of their experiences. Early schoolhouses were primitive by today's standards but everyone, especially the mothers of the pupils, did whatever they could to improve conditions. Electricity, hot and cold running water, rest rooms, and thermostatically controlled furnaces became a reality in most rural schools by 1960.

The boundaries of *District #18,* also known as "Burke," were drawn by Charles Mead February 16, 1872. Meeting in the home of George Clark, March 2, 1872, the voters of the district unanimously elected W.K. Burk as moderator. Mr. Clark became director, and J.J. Fiske treasurer. A place was chosen and a schoolhouse built, in the southwest corner of Northwest Quarter Section 8, Township 14, Range 6. About 1915, a large two-room building with a basement was built and two teachers were employed. The district was dissolved June 5, 1967, and the territory annexed by District #4, Merrick County.

District #19 called "Mead School," was formally organized on March 2, 1872, but it was not until 1880 that land was secured and a schoolhouse built in the northwest corner of Northwest Quarter, Section 33, Township 15, Range 6. In 1901, school started September 3, and lasted until May 23, 1902, — the first time in Mead that school was held for a single term of nine months. Many adjustments were necessary when there were fewer pupils in the district and advantages to be gained by consolidating with a larger district. In the spring of 1967, the voters of Mead School District, along with sixteen other rural districts, voted to dissolve their district and merge with District #4 in Central City. Classes were held for the last time on May 19, 1968. Patrons, former teachers, and students held a reunion-picnic on the school ground in June 1968.

District #21, in the early days known as the "Brown School," was organized on March 9, 1872. It encompassed an area three miles wide and nine miles long. Later that same year, District #33 to the north and District #27 to the south were formed, leaving District #21 much smaller. A schoolhouse was built, but after some years proved to be too small, so in 1908 it was sold and a larger building was erected, located on the southwest corner of Southwest Section 2, Township 14, Range 6. This was used until 1968 when District #21 became a part of District #4. Students now are transported by bus to Central City schools.



The Sunrise Mercantile House
F.M. Kenoyer, Prop. 1904



District #18 — In the early 1920's when Warren Marsh was teacher.



District #33 Mildred Davis Teacher
About 1946

District #33, "Scudder School," was formed by Charles Mead on October 22, 1872, by taking territory from the north end of District #21. In 1889, an area was taken to form District #57. Forty years later, this area was reattached and District #33 boundaries remained about the same until June 5, 1967, when the district was dissolved and the land divided among Merrick County Districts #4 and #11 and Nance County District #1. The school house was in the northwest corner of Northwest Quarter, Section 25, Township 15, Range 6.

On September 5, 1885, a written petition of all voters in *District #31* was presented to County Superintendent B.W. Baker, asking that all territory lying east of the line separating Mead and Loup Townships be taken from District #34 to form a new district. September 22, 1885, at a meeting of voters in this territory, *District #51* was organized. The schoolhouse was built in the middle of the south edge of Southwest Quarter, Section 14, Township 15, Range 7, and became known as the "Adams School." Thirty pupils were registered for the winter term which began December 14, 1885, and ended March 5, 1886. As was the case with other rural districts, the school was the hub of community social life. By 1956, the number of pupils had dwindled to the point where school patrons thought it no longer feasible to hold school in the district, and arrangements were made to contract with District #4 in Central City, and with rural *District #23* for the instruction of the remaining few children in the district. On June 21, 1962, the district was dissolved and all school property sold. Abiding by the wishes of the landowners, the land was attached to Nance County District #55 and to Merrick County Districts #19 and #23. The schoolhouse, with minor changes, was used as a school for over seventy years. It now stands on the Merrick County Fairground where it houses displays of the Merrick County Historical Museum.

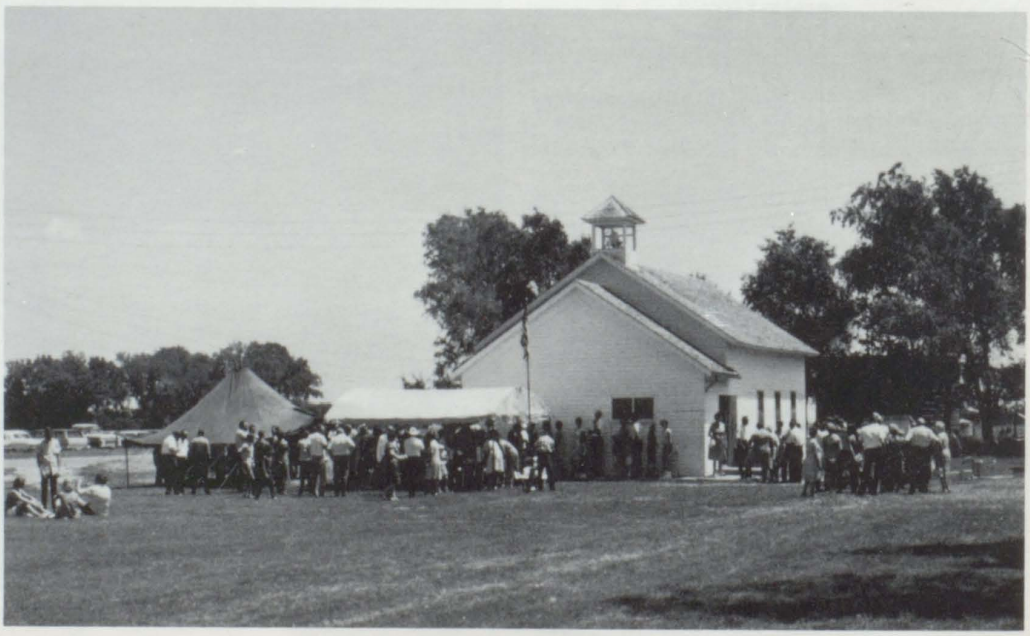
District #57 was known as the "Sandhills School," and was formed October 1, 1889, from a portion of the northwest corner of *District #33.* This small one-room schoolhouse, in the northwest corner of Northeast Quarter Section 14, Township 15, Range 6, served as school and community gathering place for almost sixty years. It was discontinued February 25, 1949, and the area was reattached to District #33.

To quote the historians of District #21, "Most of us have many happy memories of attending a one-room country school. The ending of the school term in May 1968, brought to a finish an era in the history of Merrick County." *Submitted by Donna Ferris*





District #51 — Everyone was at school the day the photographer came.



District #19 Reunion picnic held in June 1968.

MERRICK COUNTY SATURDAY BASEBALL LEAGUE

"It seems impossible in this hurry up, busy, busy world with all the high powered equipment and time-saving devices, that back in the 30s men unharnessed their horses, put aside the machinery, stopped their work, whatever, and took time for a baseball game on Saturday afternoon." *

Sunday baseball was frowned upon so this league was organized. Games were played by teams from the churches in the county. Equipment was sparse and worn; cow-pasture ball parks were rough but everyone had a good time. Rivalry was keen between the teams and their sponsors; every player played his very best and some good games resulted.

Teams in the League included: Archer Evangelical, Archer Methodist, Central City Friends, Community Friends, District #50, Fairview, Pierce Chapel, and Southside. *(* From Black Bored)*
Submitted by Donna Ferris

SOUTHSIDE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

A brief history of Southside Evangelical Church as remembered by Marvin Garrett.

"The church was built at the beginning of World War I. Material was a little hard to obtain. I well remember, that two days before the dedication, I took a team of horses and a hayrack over to Fullerton for a load of Chautauqua seats because the pews hadn't arrived.

"The American Sunday School Union had had Sunday school for some time in the Mason schoolhouse located one mile north and a mile east of where the church was built. The preacher from the Evangelical Church in Fullerton drove a team of horses out to the schoolhouse and preached each Sunday afternoon. This led to the building of the church. From then on the same preacher that preached in the Evangelical church in Fullerton, preached at the Southside church also, until 1939 when the attendance dropped so much that they were unable to continue with Fullerton. However, the church continued for sometime, filling the pulpit with anyone that was interested in the work, but it finally had to be closed, and it was sold at Auction on March 19, 1958, to the Wesleyan Methodist at Palmer, Nebraska, and is still being used."



Southside Evangelical Church circa 1935

The church was built on the north side of Mead Township in Northeast Quarter, Section 7, Township 15, Range 6, at a cost of $2500. and was fully paid for at the time of the dedication in 1916. It was moved to Palmer in 1958 and houses the Wesleyan Methodist congregation.

COMMUNITY FRIENDS CHURCH

The Community Friends Church building was a former Congregational Church; moved from the Clarks area to its location on the Gay homestead, by farmers using teams of horses. We find the names Joyce, Stephen, Good, Gay, and McClure on the list of those who helped. Later the land was acquired by the Stephens family and it was given to the church by James Stephen to use as long as the church existed.

Before they had a church building, the congregation met in the District #51 schoolhouse. They had one regular minister, Charles Stevens, who also worked for Lee Ferris. Visiting ministers came from the Friends College near Central City.

In his Yearly Meeting minutes, 1921, Theo Foxworthy, General Superintendent, reports, "One new meeting, known as Community Friends Monthly Meeting, twelve miles north of Central City, has been organized. There is at present a membership of sixty-seven and David Tuning is doing good service in maintaining this point." In 1922, Charles Replogle, General Superintendent, reports, "and we have dedicated the new meeting place at the Community Friends." In 1941 membership was fifty-two but attendance declined and in 1945 the church was listed as inactive.

Charter members included Frank Gay; Hattie Gay; Erma Gay; Sam McClure; Alena McClure; Lorena McClure; Irv McClure; James Stephen Jr., Mable Stephen; Eliza Boelts; Henry Good; Bessie Good; Goldie Pressler; Glenn McClure; M. Boelts.

In the late 1940s, the church was sold to Max Shelton Sr., and made into a house, presently the home of the Ernest Shelton family. *Submitted by Mrs. Archie Johnston*

"FRIENDSHIP CLUB"

On April 21, 1929, the following women met at the home of Ella Gleason to organize a woman's club: Myrtle Kidwiler, Ida Brandes, Fern Matthes, Ada Johnston, Cora Owens, Lucy Owens, Mary Hayes, Hannah Hayes, and Ella Gleason. The purpose of the club was to promote friendship and good will in the community, and for a social good time. The name "Friendship Club," was suggested by Fern Matthes.

Projects of the club the past fifty-two years have included giving quilts to needy families (We have given over sixty quilts since our club was organized.); sending items to orphanages, to the Tubercular Sanatorium at Kearney, and to service men in World War II; making lap robes, pillow tops, and layettes; serving farm sales, having bridal showers (which to date there have been sixty-seven,) farewell parties, serving wedding anniversary parties, supporting our local hospital, and many other projects.

There have been seventy-two different members of our club. At the present time, we have sixteen members. Eighteen have passed away. Charter members still in our club are Agnes Hartford, Alice Johnston, Ethel Hensen, and Iva McHargue.

The club joined the Extension in 1948. We have four extension lessons during the year.

Friendship has been a good name for our club. If anyone needs help serving meals to families when there is sickness, serving dinner or lunches at funerals, or helping those in need in the community, our club is ready to assist. We are all very proud to have been members of the "FRIENDSHIP CLUB."
Submitted by Geraldine Kaiser

"FAIRVIEW HOMEMAKERS CLUB"

One summer evening in 1920, on the steps of her home, Minta Woods and a few close neighbors, decided it was time they organized a "Club" for all women who would be interested in meeting to share thoughts and to help each other with their problems and concerns.

Della Joyce, Ella Severance, and Mable Stephen agreed to write a constitution. "Homemakers" became the name and the meeting time was set on the fourth Thursday of the month. The purpose was to study, and to find ways to broaden the lives and interests of farm women.

Women from a wide area were invited and soon the group became too large to be comfortably entertained in homes. So some of the members, living in the east part, resigned and joined the Friendship Club which had been organized in 1929.

During the late twenties, demonstrators came from the University Extension Service to present lessons on cooking, sewing and homemaking. Homemakers studied proper grammar, parlimentary procedure and the U.S. Constitution; and took the Red Cross First Aid Course.

A close fellowship has existed through the sixty years, and the membership includes daughters and daughters-in-law of present and former members.

Community service and neighborly helpfulness are a part of the club's program; and an annual family dinner in January, with homemade pie and ice cream, summer picnics, tours to places of interest in the State, and a very special Christmas season party are traditional. *Submitted by Donna Ferris*



Fairview Church in about 1895. Note the platform to assist people getting out of buggies.

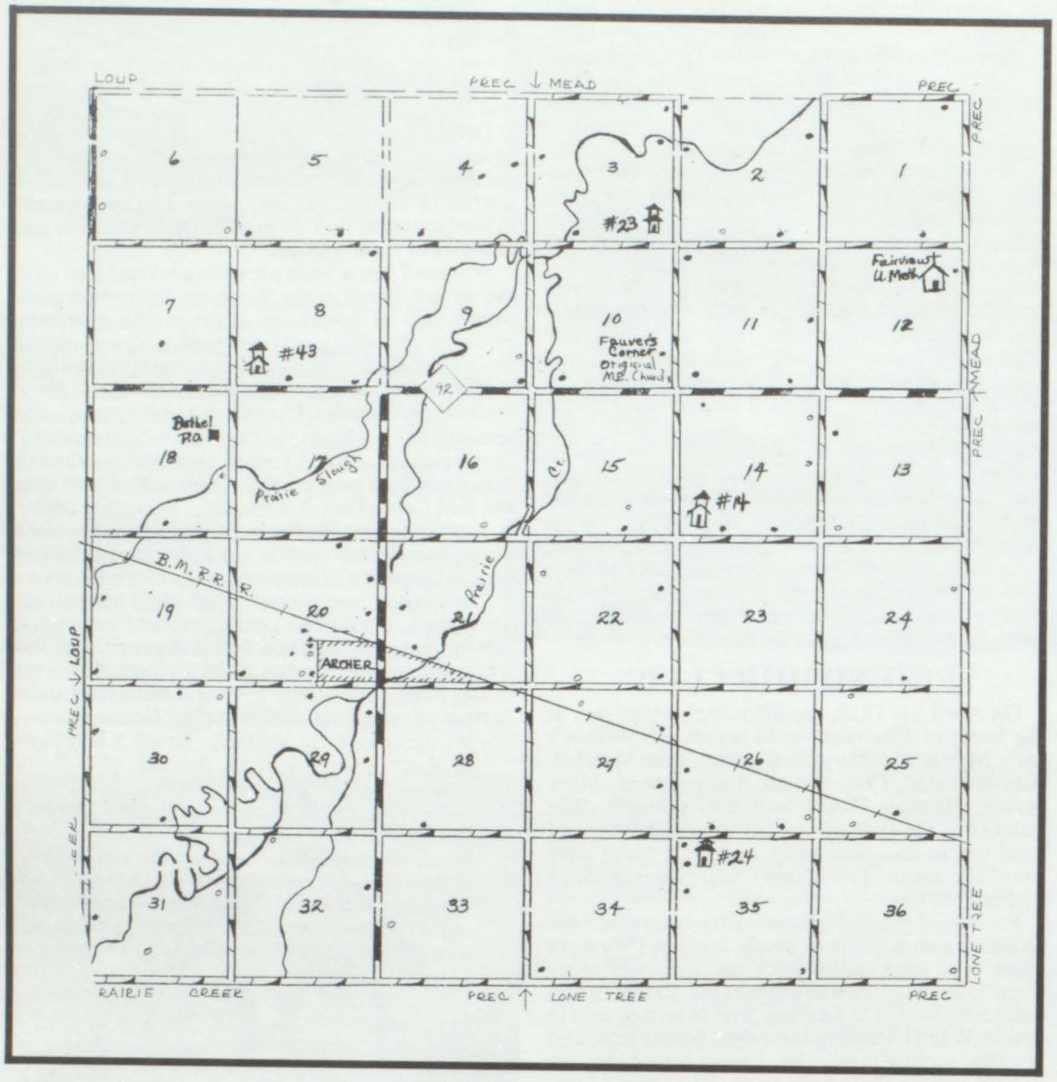


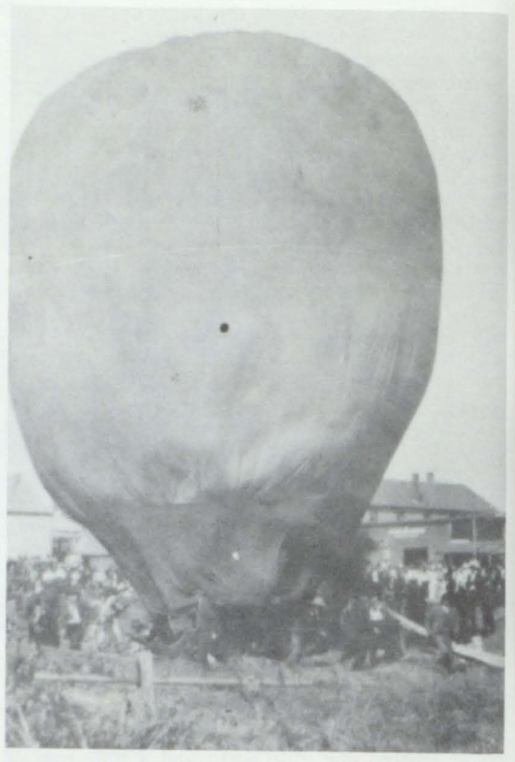
Fairview Parsonage on the site of the old Fairview Church



Friendship Club members present at our 50th Anniversary, April 1979

Midland Township





Township Fair — 1915
Lloyd Nitzel Photo

took a great many of the men in attendance to hold it on the ground. When it was inflated just right, the pilot jumped in the basket and up he went! He landed the balloon in McCutcheon's pasture just south of Highway 92, a distance of about two and a half miles from Archer. He had reached an altitude of about 2000'. The crowd was asked to contribute his pay, and the necessary $75.00 was raised. Although no record of his name or home address remains, it is known that he travelled and made balloon ascensions for a living and considered himself a professional. After the ride, he rolled up the balloon. It took two or three men just to carry the deflated canvas sack.

The photo shows the balloon nearly inflated, the white tube at right channeled the smoke from the fire into the sack. A good crowd is gathered for both assisting the balloonist and watching what would result. The photo was taken by a young Lloyd Nitzel, proud owner of a bellows-type Kodak, a birthday present from his father. *Submitted by Paula Haynes Bosselman from interview with Lloyd Nitzel*

The only township in Merrick County that is perfectly laid out, i.e. its sections fall from one through thirty-six, exactly in order from the northeast corner through the southeast, and its boundaries form a perfect square, is Midland Township.

Midland Precinct (later, Midland Township) was the last one to be formed in Merrick County, and is the only square township. It was created December 7, 1874, by petition of a number of citizens. School District #24 was designated as the voting place. The county commissioners appointed the following officers: E.H. Wilder and Wm. R. Lebert, justices of the peace; W.H. Comstock and Joseph Nay, constables; Wm. E. Marsh, assessor; Cornelius Warner and C.M. Kruge, road supervisors; E. McKendry, W.C. Comstock, and D.J. Lehr, election judges; W.H. Comstock and P.C. Tucker, election clerks.

1981 Township officers are Marvin Kyes, clerk; Gerald Gleason, treasurer; and Ronald Belitz, Chairman. *Submitted by Township Chairman, Virginia Marsh*

TOWNSHIP FAIR

The Central City *Republican* reported in the October 21, 1915, edition, that a most successful fair had been held October 14 and 15 in Midland Township, "rivaling the county-wide exposition put on at the county seat itself!" Advertised in advance in the paper, it was also reported that eighteen vehicles filled with Archer-area boosters had made a foray down the highway to Central City two days before the fair in order to promote it.

Preparations in Archer included Fred Wagner moving the stock of his Wagner Implement to the back of the building to make room for display and picnic tables in the front. Canned goods, baked items, vegetables, and poultry were all exhibited there. Adolph Nitzel, an area farmer, contributed time and funds for the fair, and the other three businesses in addition to Wagner Implement — Bonness and Dipple, General Merchandise; the Riggs General Store; and Park Grace's Garage — all chipped in to make up the $250 necessary to put on the event.

Other features of the two-day fair were blue rock shoots for turkey prizes both mornings, followed by a colt show, dinner in the big tent, a free street performance by Twin City Amusement Company of Council Bluffs, a band concert by the Archer Band led by Ed Sullivan, Sr., a parade, a baseball game between Archer and Irishtown, and a grand ball at the Opera House, which was upstairs at the town hall. Sale special during this event was eighteen pounds of sugar for a dollar and ten bars of soap for a quarter. They had a merry-go-round hired for entertainment, and proclaimed that there was "no charge to view exhibits. Sports are free!"

The premium list included a first for Carl Hansen with the 'Best Pen of Chickens,' first for C.M. Stalker for 'Best Yellow Corn.' The best mule colt belonged to Chris Franks and the best horse colt to Sam Rawlings. School District #35, taught by Miss Clara Witchell, won the prize for largest school attendance of twenty-two pupils. D.L. Gardner won the prize for the largest family.

The highlight of the fair, in any event, was the balloonist hired to make two ascensions for the sum of seventy-five dollars. Because of high winds, he did not make the ascension on the first day. Wood was burned and the smoke channeled into the canvas bag, but the balloonist had broken both legs on a previous trip when the wind had been strong, and gave it up until the next day. The second day of the fair was a beautiful one, and as the balloon filled, it

SCHOOL DISTRICT #23

Early in 1872, a petition was drawn up by County Superintendent Charles Mead and signed by several members of the community asking that a school be located in their community (Southeast Quarter of East Half of Section 3, Township 14, Range 7).

On March 25, 1872 the following officers were elected: W.E. Marsh, Moderator; George Gardner, Director and E.W. Wilson, Treasurer. The first teacher was Evelyn Lawrey. She taught a three month term and was paid twenty dollars a month.

Until a one-room school building could be built, Mr. Gardner loaned one of his small farm buildings. Later he moved it back to his farm and used it as a dog kennel (so the story was told to me).

In 1921, a two-room building with full basement was erected. The first year the lower grades (one through six) were taught by Velma Crouch. The other room was used by grades seven through ten and taught by Erma Marsh. The high school functioned until 1942.

After the school district reorganization in Merrick County, District #4, Central City, operated the school as an attendance center for one year, 1967-1968, while a new school was being built. In 1968-69



Gardner School Christmas program 1962



Stovepoker School House



Last "last day of school picnic" at District #23 May 1968

the school was closed and the pupils transported to Central City.

Quoting from an article written by Fred A. Marsh in 1958, he says, "We shall await the first crop of scholars from these "modernized schools." The old "District School" has turned out some hard to beat scholars, jurists, statesmen and divines." *Submitted by Warren and Virginia Marsh*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #24

March 23, 1872, a meeting was held at the home of D.B. Comstock, and it was voted to build a schoolhouse on the corner of Section 35, Township 14, Range 7. The building was to be one-story, 22 x 30 foot, to be furnished with a good stove and iron seats. Total cost of the schoolhouse was $763.24, coal house $57.02, and pump $25.90. Other expenditures that year were for coal at $13 a ton and corn for fuel at 20¢ a bushel. Jane Hollywood was hired as the first teacher for three months at $27.00 per month.

Other early teachers were: (1872-1889): R.A. LaFollette, Lucia Boice, Jennie Robinson, Emma Young, and Clay Jump. Some of the later teachers were: Darlene Kuhn, Henrietta Gilmont, Amelia Nelson, Nora VanPelt, Barbara Morgan, and Laura Von Aschwege.

In 1880, they put up a hitching post and bought five side lamps with reflectors. In 1916, they built a barn for four head of horses. At the 1923 school meeting, bonds were voted to build a new schoolhouse for $3500, at 6% interest. On March 25, 1940, that schoolhouse burned down, and school was held for the rest of the year in a brooder house donated by Jim Sporer. Subsequently, another was built with the help of W.P.A.

District #24 was dissolved by merging with District #4 in 1967. A district reunion picnic was held, with many of the past patrons and teachers in attendance. Mrs. Adeline Green was the last teacher. *Submitted by Alnetta Reeves*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #43

District #43 began March 14, 1874, at Section 8, Township 14, Range 7. A "converted shed, painted red, with hay piled around the foundation and furnished with plank seats," describes the first building.

Around 1880, a frame building was constructed on the site most of us remember as District #43 also known as Stove Poker. In 1958, it was merged with the Archer district. The building was sold and moved to a nearby farm.

When I attended, the building was quite small and we could all hover around the stove to keep warm on cold days. Later, it was enlarged.

One of my memories is of "drowning out gophers." The girls worked the pump, and the boys carried the water and took care of the gophers.

During the winter, literary meetings were held in the school. Sometimes spelldowns or ciphering (math) contests were the entertainment. Sometimes political speakers used the building. In summer, Sunday School was held.

Some of the earlier teachers were Mary VanPelt (my grandmother), Tillie Boelts, Ina Shull, Charlotte Moore, Erma Marsh Mesner, Clara Schudder, and Mabel Gee Carson.

My father often told us about the 1880 blizzard. His mother sent him to school with coats for his younger brothers. He arrived just as the teacher (Albert Ferris) left on his horse for his home in Palmer. With the help of some older girls, he managed to keep the children there. Later, he returned home, and he and his older brother, Mayo, brought back food for all. He stayed all night and kept the fire going. *Submitted by Viola Newlon*

ARCHER PUBLIC SCHOOL

The Archer school district, *District #46,* was legally formed on March 18, 1874, under the supervision of Charles E. Mead, County Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The first school census taken April 1, 1874, showed a total of seven children, between the ages of five and twenty-one years, who would be eligible to attend school.

A small schoolhouse was built on the B.W. Baker farm about ½ mile west of Archer on the north side of the road. It was called the Baker School.



Baker School — The first school house in District #46

District #46 officially opened school in the fall of 1892, after a two-story schoolhouse was built in Archer. Henry Chapman was the first instructor.

The Baker School was no longer needed so it was sold to Ed Lehr and was moved to Archer. The Lehrs made it into a home. The original building altered by additions is a part of the Dale Fousek residence today.

The Archer School was graded in 1902. Nine students, seven girls and two boys, were the first eighth grade graduates.

In 1920, the wooden schoolhouse burned. School was held in the old Town Hall until a new building could be constructed. This school operated with eight grades, and later with ten, until the school year of 1925-26, when two more grades were added. Twelve graduates of a four-year high school went forth in 1926.

The class of 1957 was the last group to graduate from Archer High School. The high school was discontinued after the 1956-57 school year due to the small enrollment and to increasing expenses.

In 1958, all of District #43 and most of District #26 were added to District #46. The school accommodated grades kindergarten through eight.

Further change came June 5, 1967, when District #46 was consolidated with the Central City Schools (District #4).



Archer High School Building now an attendance center of District #4

The school building in Archer is still in use for grade school students although it is now a part of the Central City School System. *Submitted by Mrs. Ervin Blauhorn*



Pupils at District #14 saluting the flag. Year of 1947-48. Teacher, Darlene Wagner

TELEPHONE SERVICE

Early telephones in the Archer vicinity were very much appreciated but were not too reliable. Patrons wishing to hook on to an existing line of the Chapman Telephone Company were required to furnish poles, wire, labor, and the purchase price of their phone. They also bought shares of stock at $15 per share.

Some patrons put up regular telephone poles, but others made do with wires strung along tall enough fence posts so cattle wouldn't bother them.

There was a period of time when Archer also had a telephone line in from Central City. It covered the territory south and east of Archer. During this period business places in Archer had both phones and were often asked to relay messages from one patron on one phone to another on the other line.

One of the early offices was run by Mrs. Ed Lehr

in her home. Martha Retzlaff was also an operator in this office, as well as the office the telephone company bought later.

In 1951, the Continental Telephone Company bought out the Chapman Telephone Company and now subscribers on the Archer line can call Central City, Chapman, and Palmer without charge. *Submitted by Virginia Marsh*

ARCHER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The church building had its beginning in 1899, while Rev. R. Frank Shacklock was pastor, and was dedicated February 11, 1900. It was located one block west of the main street in Archer. It was completely destroyed by fire on the afternoon of June 5, 1974. Rev. Elvin H. Bratton was the pastor of the Palmer-Archer Parish at that time.

The church denomination has had three names: The Methodist Episcopal Church, Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church.

The Archer Church was served by twenty-nine ministers. The building was always kept in good repair and remodeled to keep it quite modern. All organizations of the Archer Church had their times of strength and helped to serve the congregation and the community. Sunday School attendance in the 1930's was about 100, but decreased as the community changed.

The Lincoln Land Company donated Lot Four, Block Nineteen, for the church grounds. The building, bell, inside furniture, and organ cost $2750. The church was entirely free from debt at Conference time in 1901. The Church Extension Society donated $200 for building purposes.

A parsonage was built northwest of the church for $900, which was later sold and moved away. In 1904 the Archer church had 102 members and was affiliated with Fairview with fifty-two members. The Pastor's salary was $600. The home just north of the church was purchased for a parsonage and was first occupied by Rev. and Mrs. A.H. Brink and family in 1928. Electricity came to Archer and Rev. Brink wired the church.



Archer Methodist Church
Dedicated Feb. 11, 1900
Destroyed by fire June 5, 1974

At the time of the tragic fire, total membership was ninety-six persons. After much discussion and many meetings, it was voted to have November 10, 1974, as the closing date. Members voted on September 4, 1974, to disband and join individually with other churches. Morning worship services were held in the Archer Co-operative Credit Association building until it closed. Insurance money and all church funds were donated to help in building the Archer Community Center in Archer. *Submitted by Evelyn Scharvin Bruns*



Fairview United Methodist Church built in 1951 across the road from the "old" church.

FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fairview Church was organized during the winter of 1883-84 after ten years of Sunday School meetings in homes and schoolhouses. From these groups, a church fellowship was formed. A church was built and dedicated, on Fauver's Corner, about halfway between Archer and the present church site, and named Fairview.

In the spring of 1893, the church was moved to the corner diagonally opposite the present church building. In 1926, the building was raised and a basement installed. This housed the children's sunday school and was the scene of many church socials.

About 1942, the congregation began to make plans for a new church building. "God's Acre" plan was started, and a choir was organized. The new church was dedicated December 9, 1951, and the old building became the Fairview Social Center. Much of the work had been done by volunteers from the congregation.



Fairview "Social Center" in 1961 just before it was torn down and made into a parsonage.

In 1961-62, the Social Center was rebuilt into a parsonage. Fairview, since the union of the Methodist and EUB Churches, has been a part of the Fairview-Archer Zion Parish.

In 1981, the membership is 170. Well-planned worship services are enhanced with music by the junior and adult choirs, the ladies bell choir, and the youth bell choir. Recent memorial gifts of a new piano and organ will add to the beauty of the worship services.

There are four adult Sunday School classes, which are also fellowship groups; an active youth group; and classes with dedicated teachers for children from nursery through high school.

Fairview's 100th Anniversary will be celebrated in 1984. *Submitted by Eileen Baird*

ARCHER

In 1886, Cyrus D. Chapman, who homesteaded the Northwest Quarter of Section 28, Township 14, Range 7, wrote to the Burlington officials urging the feasibility of a railroad line out in the direction of his farm. Mr. Chapman, a dynamic character, furnished the spark which set things rolling. The following year Mr. Chapman gave a month of his time helping surveyors determine the town sites and no doubt influencing a decision in favor of some of his land as a site for the first town out of Central City. On May 25, 1887, the Lincoln Land Company, cooperating apparently with the Burlington, purchased from E.H. Whickam and Mary Chapman (wife of C.N.) the land now occupied by the village of Archer.

Some heat was engendered in naming the new town. Mr. Whickam wanted it to bear his name and since there already was one Chapman in the county, Mr. Chapman was determined to call it Cyrus. A compromise was reached by naming it for a Mr. Archer, a man prominent at that time in Burlington and Missour Railroad circles. Cyrus D. Chapman, who had so much to do with the founding of Archer, was happiest when in the role of leader. It is fairly safe to say that except for C.D. Chapman there would be no Archer and the town, whatever its name, would be differently located.

That fall, Emil Hansen, who was operating a country store at Adams Center, two miles southwest of the proposed town, moved his building to a site in Archer. Later Mr. Hansen engaged in partnership with J.B. Templin and operated a creamery as well as his mercantile business. Horse drawn wagons gathered cream from a large area and a fine brand of butter was made. Some of the names remembered that worked on the cream route or in the creamery are Henry Retzlaff, Guy Sandburn and H. Eckert. The creamery was located outside the city limits west of town on the land where Bill Green now lives. The old Hansen store, now torn down, housed numerous businesses including Emil Hansen, Hansen and Templin, Riggs and Wegner, Graham and Mendenhall, Warren Riggs and P.C. Woodward.



Bonness and Wegner General Store

In the spring of 1888, Mr. Chapman erected a store building, 16 x 32 feet, just across the street north from Mr. Hansen's store. He also, in partnership with M.H. Rawlings, established a lumber yard at the rear of the store. The Chapman store burned and then was replaced with a larger building. It was occupied later by the following merchants: H. Gurney, Schroeder and Wagner, Wegner and Bonness, Bonness and Dipple, Paul Bonness and Sons, Bonness Brothers (Harvey and Elmer), L. Hartford, and H. Boelts.

The Central Grain Company built the first elevator. Later it was removed to give way to another structure owned for many years by T.B. Hord Company. Still later, Farmers Co-op Grain and Coal Company and Dinsdale Brothers operated it. Among the men who managed it were: L.L. Fraser, E.W. Lehr, Ward Morse, Chas. Woodword, Julius Zamzow and Cecil Eaton.

In 1890, came C.E. Barnett, a young physician, asking for a place to locate. Later came Drs. Benton, Adams, Paxton, Pitts, Briggs and Mitz.

The first and only hotel was kept by Chris and Elizabeth Frank. For a time a drug store was operated by Minor Whaley. The town residence carpenters were O.N. Gurney, E.W. Lehr and Charles Huff. The Boehls, Henry, John and Frank, also were handy men with carpenter tools. Blacksmiths were H. Giles, F.B. Foster, Julius Zamzow, O. Ita, Mr. Jackson and O.A. Drake.



Mr. O'Conner and some Archer boys in front of the Bank.

In the early teens the Citizens State Bank was established. Beginning with Chris Hostetter, the bankers have been Joe Hayes, Wm. O'Connor, George Lehr, W.P. Hansen and Warren McBride. In 1929 due to the "Bank Holiday" the bank was shut down for a period of time. In 1934 it was reorganized as the Archer Co-op Credit Association.

At an early date, S.D. Ayers established lumber and coal yards which were operated successively by R. Brannan, George Ayers and George (Pat) Eckhoff, who was also part owner. Farm implement business has been represented by Wegner and McClure, F.E. Wegner, Baker and Rawlings, Fred Baker and Vaughn Tyler. Other enterprises were A.J. Haggerdorn's harness factory, John Zamzow's harness shop, barber shop, pool hall, and a shoe repair shop (Gardner and McKendry). A hospital for ailing automobiles was established by Park Grace, later taken over by Carl Banish and then Derrel Hanson. Oscar Ita and Don Tschudy operated a repair shop for several years; Howard Hubka purchased it in the '70s.

In later years Wayne (Butch) Thompson built Central Fertilizer on the east side of the main street near the railroad tracks. In 1980, Vanice Grain bought out Thompson. It is now known as Archer Agri-Service. The manager is Dick Rice.

In 1959, a new elevator was built on the west side of main street next to the tracks by a corporation formed by Warren McBride, Don Reimer, Don McHargue, Walt McHargue, Leland Wegner and Hubert Boelts. The new business was called Archer Grain. Hubert Boelts was the manager for several years followed by Allen Verplank and Dean Jones. Dean Jones purchased it in 1979.

Archer Oil Company was established in 1939 by John F. and Raymond Miller. The land was purchased from Fred Marsh for $100. Mr. Marsh was very pessimistic about the Millers being able to make a go of the business in the "30s." Many a time, according to Ray, Mr. Marsh told them if they had to give up he would refund their money. After Ray's father died Ray took over and brought his son, John, into the business. In 1976, Ray turned the business over to son John.



Archer under water about 1905



Carroll (Main) Street 1981

Archer is no longer a shipping center as in the early years. Archer no longer has a population of 125 as it did in 1895. Archer does not have free movies anymore. Archer's business district is small: Archer Oil Co., Foulk Upholstery (in the former bank building), Archer Co-op Credit Association (in a new building) with the new Archer Community Center attached to the east, Hubka Garage, Archer Agri-Service and Archer Grain. Roger Stander is just beginning a new body and repair shop. Archer has a population in 1981 of seventy happy people. *Compiled from Writing of Fred A. Marsh; Updated by Virginia Marsh*



Community Center with the bell from the Methodist Church

POSTMASTERS

In the year 1887, the Burlington Road Company laid rails from Aurora northwestward. On Prairie Creek, a town site was laid out and named Archer in honor of an old Burlington conductor.

With the coming of the railroad, came the United States mail. The post office has been housed in various buildings since that time. First, in the Burlington depot, the Brittin home, Zamzow Hardware store, Temple & Riggs (later P.C. Woodward General Store), the old bank building and finally its present location in the Cooperative Credit Bank building.

The first postmasters were railroad agents. Later other appointments were made. Records indicate the first postmaster was A.B. Talkinton followed by George Kull, H. Gurney, Fred Brittin, S.O. Pitts, (a temporary post due to the death of Fred Brittin), Winifred Brittin, John Zamzow, Mrs. Joe Cogil, Warren Riggs, P.C. Woodward, W.P. Hansen and Warren McBride.



Deacon Gardner with his horse and mail cart — from 1900 to about 1920

The rural area received their mail promptly by such faithful men as Deacon Gardner, Buren Wells, Lyle Nedrig and Robert Sullivan using whatever vehicle that was appropriate to make their daily deliveries.

Some samples from the money order record books dating from 1908 to 1923 are: "December 12, 1908 Herman Weller to American Book Company, Chicago, for $4.64-fee 3¢; February 14, 1910, D.L. Gardner to Montgomery Ward, Kansas City, Missouri. for $2.20-fee 3¢; December 26, 1910, Otto Zamzow to Fruik Brothers Seed Company, Bloomington, Illinois for $5.00-fee 5:¢; March 6, 1923, Bonness & Dipple to Queen Incubator Company Lincoln, Nebraska, for $2.05-fee 3¢ COD"



Cooperative Credit Association and United States Post Office



Archer Senior Citizens



Archer, Nebraska Band
1890 or earlier

SENIOR CITIZENS

Early in 1975, the County Supervisors asked that a survey be made of the Archer senior citizens who lived alone to determine their needs. One problem many named was eating alone. Fellowship was something we needed to provide.

In June the Archer United Methodist Church burned. The insurance money was given to the Archer Co-op Credit Association to be applied to building a community center which would be attached to and cared for by the bank. The Archer Community Center was built late that summer.

On October 14, 1975, a group of interested persons, not just those living alone, met at the Center to discuss how to keep the feeling of fellowship alive in the Archer senior citizen group. They decided to meet at the Archer Community Center on the second Tuesday of each month for a "Carry-in" dinner meeting and on the fourth Tuesday for an afternoon meeting.

The first steering committee chosen was Marjorie Stander, Martha Retzlaff, Claus Wagner and Genevieve Brink. This committee was responsible for the program and any business the organization might have. The first committee served for two years. Later two couples have made up the committee and serve a one year term. Ed and Lena Sullivan deserve special recognition for their interest and help they have given.

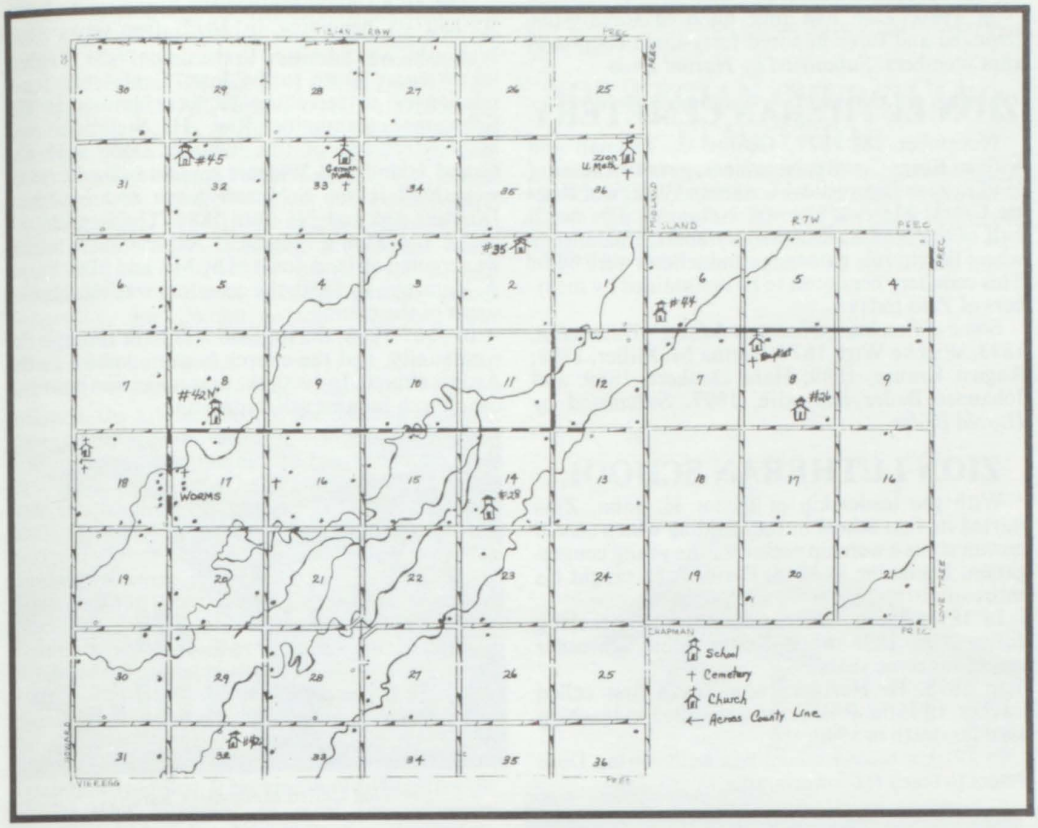
Our programs have been varied but playing cards is the old standby, especially enjoyed by the men. We have had speakers and travel talks, made hospital favors and a quilt, and we host the Blood Pressure Clinic. In November we have a Thanksgiving Feast for the community.

We offer people with Archer connections a chance to come together for a social time.



Archer Band — E.T. Sullivan, leader
Some of the band members pictured are: Ray Swartout, Pat Eckhoff, F.F. Wagner, Henry Zamzow, — Cox, Lloyd Willeman, Ray Kombrink, Joe Baird, Ed McCutcheon, Dan Mulford, Carl Wagner, Henry Dierts, Deak Gardner, Will Templin, Herman Holtz, Bill Prochaska, Leonard Templin, Fred (Big) Boelts, George Ayres, John Wegner, Henry (Little) Boelts

Prairie Creek Township



According to justice of the peace records, Prairie Creek was an established township of Merrick County January 3, 1873. It was the former Merrick County Precinct #7, created at the same time as Loup and Mead voting precincts were established. District #28 was the voting place. The first officials were: H.A. Bruno and G.F. Reed, justices of the peace; Lester Bruno and Garrett Bloomingdale, constables; S.L. Wiser, assessor; H.H. Kerr, W.H. Cogil, and C.C. Pemberton, election judges; and S.R. Paist and W.H. Crites, election clerks. Also in this book are records of both civil and criminal trials. Most were settled within the framework of the township government. Some of the trials were held for assault, labor disputes, damages, debts, and stolen property. The constable was responsible for getting people to trial, the Justice of the Peace then held court. A Justice could also perform marriages.

Agriculture and livestock were the industries in the area. It was slow in its early development because the settlers were unacquainted with the soil and climate (heat and drought in summer — blizzards in the winter). They had little capital to withstand the reverses that came. Some of the settlers left on account of Indian attacks, but many had the courage to remain and become prosperous. The worst grasshopper raid on record ravaged the township in 1874.

Prairie Creek Township supported five school districts by 1874, and three churches by 1833. One of the three, the Lutheran Church, was established in 1874 at Worms, an inland town founded about the same time as the church. The early settlers in this region were of German descent.

The polling place in 1981 is the basement of the school at Worms. The present township board consists of Walter Kurz, President; Curtis Bosselman, Treasurer; and Richard Krance, Clerk. *Submitted by Township Chairman, Elizabeth Fauquier Mason*

EARLY SETTLER

T.N. Gosnell was living in Danville, Illinois when he read in the Chicago Tribune letters written from Lone Tree describing and praising the country around the place, and urging settlers to come to the wonderful farm land around that settlement. He later heard Morgan L. Wright was author of the letters.

Early in the year of 1872, he, Sam Scott and John Talliver hired a rail car to Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. Gosnell brought a team of white mules and a dog to Omaha. While unloading at Omaha he lost the dog, much to his sorrow, as it was a good dog.

The three men drove overland to Lone Tree, arriving March 16, 1872. Sam Scott, with a brother-in-law who settled in Platte County and some others from the same settlement, wished to go to Greely County and look for claims. Mr. Gosnell went along. They travelled twenty five miles north of St. Paul. Scott and his friends were pleased with the country and settled there. The present town of Scotia was named by Mr. Scott and the first Post Office was in his house.

Mr. Gosnell had not forgotten Lone Tree, and leaving his friends in Greely County, he drove to Grand Island, then a village without town organization. From there he started over the prairies to the northeast. After he had traveled ten or twelve miles he met Wesley Raser, a man with eleven mules. They stopped and talked and Mr. Raser persuaded him to file on some land that Mr. Raser had picked out. Together they staked claims on Section 22, Township 13, Range 8. This later became a part of *Prairie Creek Township.* In a short time, when the laws made it possible, Mr. Gosnell took a claim on the same section for his widowed sister, Mrs. Margaret Fauquier. Stephen Wiser took a claim, the same day that Gosnell and Raser filed theirs, in the same neighborhood. The land there was settled fast and by 1873, it was all taken.

Some of the first claims in School District #28 were the Brunos, the father and sons Henry and Chub; the Reeds; Kadys; Crites; Baders; Fauquiers; Rasers; Wisers; McClays and Templins plus two young tenderfeet from the east by the name of Gates, who had to have the neighbors teach them how to harness a team of horses and hitch them to a wagon.

Soon the people organized a township government, and School Districts #26, 28, and 35 were organized and built within six months.

A pioneer Missionary, John Gunderman, stationed in Lone Tree came to the school to preach to the people. At first he walked, but later got a horse that he rode. One Sunday afternoon he failed to come, so there being a goodly crowd, they organized a Literary Society and had a thriving society for several years with a paper that was a delight of the community. When the Grange movement swept the Country they had a large, fine, Grange. *Submitted by Elizabeth Fauquier Mason*

WORMS

The town of Worms was founded about the same time as the Lutheran Church, in 1874. The early settlers were chiefly of German descent. Worms was named after a town of the same name in Rheinhessen, Germany. A general store and postoffice were established by Peter Brase. The postoffice was discontinued with the coming of rural delivery. In 1928, the Brase Store (See Brase Story) was leased to Farmers Union for a short time and, during the same year, Farmers Union built a new store some distance to the north. Ruth and Con Peters were the first managers. The Brase Store was then sold for use as the local tavern, and still serves the same purpose today. In 1960, Dean and Maxine Simonson purchased the store and frozen food locker from Farmers Union and operated it until 1968, when it was closed. Later, Max Frauens purchased the building, tore it down, and built their retirement home in its place.

In the early 1920's, Louis Helzer opened a blacksmith shop in Worms. In 1925, John Helzer purchased the land his father had his shop on and built



Aerial view of Worms — 1980

the J.H. Helzer Garage. He and his father both operated shops for a number of years. John also had car dealerships and sold Case machinery. The garage still stands, but is not in use today. John operated it until his retirement.

It is recalled that in the thirties and thereafter, Thursday evening was "open night" and people gathered from miles around to view the movies which were shown outside on the side of the store. It was an evening to buy groceries, visit, and maybe have refreshments. During the "depression," it was an important part of the local population's social life. Church and civic meetings were centered around this particular evening.

Today Worms boasts a church, three-room school, tavern, thirteen homes, and a population of forty-six. *Submitted by Harold Bader*

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. C. Baumhoefener, stationed at Columbus, Nebraska, came to western Merrick County in January 1874, having heard there were Lutheran families living there. The first place he preached was in Bader's School on the ridge, District #28. Later, Rev. H. Norden and J. Helgendorf alternated preaching in school houses. On June 4, 1874, Rev. Baumhoefener conducted a meeting for interested Lutherans, and they called Rev. August Leuthaeheuser as pastor. Despite the feeling of the community that they were financially unable to support him as they would have liked, due to reverses in crops and animals caused by weather and grasshoppers, he persisted in his calling, and on August 23, 1874, he was installed by Baumhoefener in Collman Schoolhouse. The first services were held in Witt's School, located one and a half miles south of the present church site in Worms. The congregation was organized September 17, 1874, under the name of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Prairie Creek Township. In 1876, Rev. Leuthaeheuser left and, although the congregation was poor, the people called another pastor, Rev. F.H. John. Receiving five acres of land from George C. Tallman, November 28, 1877, they built a small frame church and parsonage. Johannes Bader gave the church its first bell. In 1891, Rev. John left, and Rev. F. Duever came. In 1893, a new church was built, using the old building as a school. Duever died in 1895, and Rev. John Schroeder was called. He served as teacher in addition to his pastoral duties, In 1898, Mr. H. Hartman was Zion's first resident teacher.



North side of Zion Lutheran Church and cemetery

In 1899, at the time of Zion's Silver Anniversary, there were fifty-five voting, two hundred seven communicant, and three hundred ninty-seven baptized members.

Ministers who have served Worms are: Rev. K. Jahn, 1903-1908; Rev. Wm. Ludwig, 1908-1919; Rev. Franz Frese, 1919-1932; Rev. H. Wm. Meyer, 1933-1949; Rev. Arthur Otto, 1949-1958; Rev. Lester Boehm, 1958-1965; Rev. Arthur Kreidt, 1966-1971; Rev. Gary Schmidtke, 1972-1976; and Rev. Phillip Hannemann, 1976-Present.

On September 27, 1959, a new cornerstone was laid on the Eighty-fifth Anniversary of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church at Worms, and the new stone church was dedicated on February 21, 1960. As a memorial to his great-grandfather, Harold Bader had the original bell refinished and electrified for the new church tower.

In 1980, Zion had four hundred seventy-two baptized and three hundred forty-three communicant members. *Submitted by Harold Bade*

ZION LUTHERAN CEMETERY

November 28, 1877, George C. Tallman and wife, of Kings County, New York, gave five acres of land to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Prairie Creek, Merrick County, Nebraska. The north half of the land is the cemetery and the balance is where the church, parsonage and schools were built. This cemetery continues to be maintained by members of Zion today.

Some of first buried here are Johanna Dammann, 1873; Wiebke Witt, 1874; Bertha M. Miller, 1888; August Krause, 1889; Hans Dankert, 1889; and Johannes Bader and wife, 1897. *Submitted by Harold Bader*

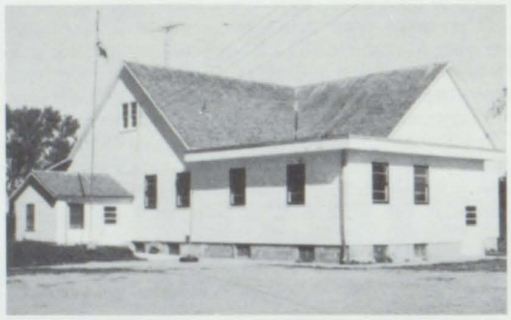
ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

With the leadership of Pastor H. Jahn, Zion started its first school in the building which served previously as a worship center for the young congregation. Beginning in 1876, Pastor Jahn taught his entire ministry.

In 1891, Pastor Duever assumed the teaching duties until 1895 when Pastor John Schroeder taught for three years.

In 1898, H. Hartman was Zion's first called teacher. In 1906, P.E. Frese was called to teaching until his death in 1940.

In 1910, a second school was built, hiring Dora Peters to teach the lower grades.



Present school

Serving as principals have been: 1940 — Alfred Bangert; 1945 — Marion Bohlen; 1949 — Joan Bader; 1950 — Erwin Kohtz (During his stay, the school was remodeled and rooms added); 1955 — Ernest Pflughoeft (Assisted in starting kindergarten classes, a third room, and library); 1963 — Loris Rather; and 1969 — Stanley Fehlhafer (Prior to 1969, taught middle grades).

Others teaching include Laura Mewes, Ruth Nierman, Elisabeth Mullenhoff, Hildergard Koehn, Minna Siebrass, Alma Peterson, Hildergard Dammann, Emma Buls, Emmily Traugott, Elsie Frese, Agnes Frese, Marie Schoenbeck, Alvin Krallmann, Marie Snyder, Murina Michel, Lois Bader, Carol Schempf, Sylvia Nuttelman, Lavonne Peterson, Theodore Bader, James Roth, Carlyn Hodde, Betty Beckman, Joyce Schinkel, Virginia Fehlhafer, Andrea Brown, Brian Carrigan, Ronald Zumfelde, Dennis Meyer, Bonnie Wiedmann, Cindy Muench, Gayle Peterson, and Hiedi Cox.

In 1980, Zion has a three-room school, and enrollment fifty four. Teaching are Stanley Fehlhafer, Cindy Muench, and Gayle Peterson. A hot lunch program started in 1957 still serves the school today, and Janice Kurz is in charge of the kitchen.

All Glory to God! *Submitted by Harold Bader*

ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Zion United Methodist Church, as we know it, had its beginning in 1872, five years after Nebraska was admitted to the union. Mrs. Frederick Wiegert wrote to the Iowa Conference for a missionary to serve the pioneer families in the Schlueter community. Rev. H. Stellrecht was assigned charge of this mission, along with the Grand Island and Wiegert communities. Services were held in the Schlueter home and in school Districts #35 and #46 until 1884. The first church called the Zion Evangelical Association Church, was erected on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Zamzow. In 1880, the cemetery was established south of the church.

In 1887-1888, the railroad was built through the community, and the church became known as the Archer church. In 1900, the parsonage was built and the church became self-supporting.



Zion United Methodist Church

On October 18, 1919, the cornerstone was laid for a beautiful new church that became a visual landmark for the entire countryside. (It remained fifty-seven years before it was replaced with the present church.) At the same time, the use of the German language was discontinued.

In 1922, the Evangelical Association and the United Evangelical were united and the church became Zion Evangelical Church. In 1946, the Zion Evangelical and United Brethren united to become the Zion Evangelical United Brethren. In 1968, the Methodist and E.U.B. churches united, and the church was named Zion United Methodist.

On June 13, 1976, the new church was dedicated. During its 109-year history, thirty-four pastors have served, and at the present time, there is a membership of 165. *Submitted by Wm. A. Rudolf*

GERMAN METHODIST CHURCH

The German Methodist Episcopal Church was located six miles south of Palmer on the former H.C. Von Aschwege farm. The neat, small church looked like a school house with a steeple and a square outside entrance on the front. It was built in the northeast corner of Section 33, Township 13 Range 8 West, prior to the date the deed was registered: May 29, 1894. According to local recollection, that was probably the date the church was finally paid for. The oldest grave in the adjacent cemetery is dated 1873. A German minister traveled to Archer on the train for services. He was met by H.C. Von Aschwege and his family and transported to their home near the church. The family would keep him over the weekend while held whatever services were necessary; regular services in the church, weddings, funerals, or baptisms.

Early names in the parish include the Von Aschwege's, August Brunk, August Mueller, Schutz family, Schiebes family, Gerd Boelts, and John and Gus Boelts. No regular services were held for many years, but occasional burials have been held since the church building was removed.

The building was sold to the Central City St. Paul Lutheran Church and the lumber was used to enlarge their church in 1944.

Henry Schuett maintains this cemetery. *Submitted from Interviews by Raymona Grigsby and Manuscript by Elizabeth Fauquier Mason*

PRAIRIE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

The Prairie Creek Baptist Church, located eight miles west of Central City, was organized January 7, 1883. The first meetings were held at the Pemberton school house (District #44) and at District #26. The pastor was J.E. Ingram. A.J. Harshberger donated forty acres of land for the church and cemetery. The church was dedicated on October 9, 1884. The first regular Pastor was Rev. E.C. Baird. Charter members were P. Sutton, J.E. Fitch, Mrs. J. Fitch, Frances Hirst, Elizabeth Harshberger, James A. Sinsel, E.A. Sinsel, B.F. Jones, Mary Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Schmelzer, R.T. Lewis, L.E. Lewis, William Sinsel, Fannie Sinsel, James Teagarden, Joel Widman, John Newlon, L.L. Frazier and Mrs. R.S. Frazier.

In 1924, during the pastorate of Rev. Floyd Johnson, a basement was dug, the building enlarged, the tall steeple and the opening changed from the north to the east.

From a small beginning, the church thrived and grew for many years. The Womens Social Circle, later the Ladies Aid, continued to meet once a month and served a noon meal for which they received a donation of ten cents, later raised to twenty-five cents.

The Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration was held June 25th, 1933, an all day meeting with dinner cooked and served to all by the women of the church. Two hundred attended the event.

The Church served the Community for fifty-six years, not only as a source of religious instructions and experiences but also as a social center. Times changed, large families grew up and moved away, population dwindled. It became very difficult for the faithful who remained to meet the necessary expenses of the church, and it was decided to discontinue services on October 1st, 1939. Several annual business meetings were held after that date. The building was turned over to the State Convention. It was sold at public auction in August, 1954, for $547.77. The proceeds were added to the Edifire Loan Fund. The thirty acres went back to the Harshberger heirs. The church is gone, but the influence of this small county church lives on.

From Records of the Church *By Dorothy Raines, Submitted by Elizabeth Fauquier Mason*

PRAIRIE CREEK BAPTIST CEMETERY (WOODPECKER CEMETERY)

On May 3, 1884, A.J. Harshberger deeded forty acres of land to build the Prairie Creek Baptist Church, ten acres of which was to be for a cemtery. It was surveyed in 1885 by E.C. Simmons, and contained 132 lots. At this writing in 1981, burial lots are still available. Many members of the church choose this cemetery as a final resting place. Through the years this little cemetery has always been kept clean and beautiful.

This cemetery is sometimes referred to as the Woodpecker Cemetery. *Submitted by Elizabeth Fauquier Mason from records of Harry Rice*

ARCHER EVANGELICAL COMMUNITY CEMETERY

Land in the corner of northeast quarter of Section 36, Prairie Creek Township was deeded to the trustees of Zion Evangelical Church by A.J. Harshberger in March, 1885, for a church and cemetery. Today the cemetery, incorporated for perpetual care, is called Archer Evangelical Community Cemetery.

The first adult interment was Dora Dahl, mother of Mrs. Muchow, in February, 1887. Carl Wegner, who served as one of her pallbearers, was buried a year later. Some of the early families resting there include Rudolf, Zamzow, Retzlaff, Blauhorn, Weller, Ita, Zlomke, Suck, Glause, Otto, Boelts, and Muchow.

Graves made before the cemetery was established are lost in fields and pastures in the area. One containing the remains of August Retzlaff's grandfather lies on the brow of a nearby hill. These interments have long ago returned to the elements and are known to God alone. *Submitted by Marilyn Djernes*

NORWEGIAN CHURCH AND CEMETERY

The (Kunsmore Maneghed) Danish Norwegian Lutheran Congregation was organized in the early 1880's. On November 9th, 1885, a piece of ground was purchased from Stien Olson where a church was built. This land was located one and a half miles north and four miles east of St. Libory, on the Merrick-Howard County line. It was an area fifteen rods square in Northeast Quarter, Section 13, Township 13, Range 9 West. Here, a church was built and a cemetery started. After nearly fifty years most of the early members of this congregation had died and the younger members had transferred their membership to Zion Lutheran Church at Worms. The building was sold to, and torn down by, a few of the former members in 1934 or 1935.



Danish Norwegian Lutheran Church

There are a few over fifty people buried in the cemetery. Some of the people buried here are Simon and Anna Simonson; four of their infant children; Daughter Anna; Mrs. Simonson's sisters, Marie and Stella Jensen; Mr. and Mrs. Simon K. Simonson; Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Simonson; John Simonson and Mrs. Onen Simonson. Others include Onon and Peter Danilson; Lyder Jacobson; several members of the Rier Olson family; Berent Knudsen; Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gunderson; Gunder Gunderson; Bertha Gunderson; and Andrew Gunderson. Also, Wm. Malmrose and his mother Dorthea. Others include: Baby Leonard Seim; members of the Egeland, Mecay, Nelson, Jensen, and Anderson families. A few of the graves are unmarked. In 1957 the cemetery was given to the Worms church for their use. *Submitted by John Simonson*

PRAIRIE CREEK SCHOOLS

School District #26 was located in the Southwest Quarter Southeast Quarter Section 8, Township 13, Range 7, and was organized in 1873 with twenty-seven students. Among the student list were Anson Holmes, Lowell Widman and Elizabeth Widman.

School District #28 was located in the Southeast Quarter Southwest Quarter Section 14, Township 13, Range 8, and was organized in 1873. The first teacher was Henry Bruno. They held school for sixty days. Salary for the teacher was thirty dollars a month. There were twenty-one enrolled the first year. Some of the students were: J.C. Raser, Jennie Raser, Milo Raser, Lizzie Bader, Caroline Bader, Louis Bader, George Reed, Cornelia Reed, Mary Reed, Lizzie, Charles and Thomas Fauquier, Augusta, Sara and Ida Bruno, Joseph McClay and Willie Bloomingdale.

School District #35 was located in the Northwest Quarter Northeast Quarter Section 2, Township 13, Range 8, and was organized in 1873. The first pupils were: Desdimona Coledgre, Cora Coolidge, Francis Byrnes, Anna Byrnes, George Paiste, Harvey Gifford, Helen Gifford, Nellie, Jenny, Mary and Jasper Pemberton, John Blood, Helwig Schiber and Harvey Pemberton.

School District #42 was located in the Northeast Quarter Section 29, Township 13, Range 8, and was organized in 1874. Sixteen students enrolled. Some of the pupils were Loey Buchanan, Ida Buchanan, Casper Seims, Conrad Seims, Emil Dankert, Lucy Dankert, Margery Dammann and other. Later there was a *North #42* located in the Southeast Quarter Southwest Quarter, Section 8, Township 13, Range 8. There was no school held there after 1927.

School District #44 was located in the Southwest Quarter, Southwest Quarter Section 6, Township 13, Range 7, and was organized April 11, 1874. Some of the students were Bertha, Rosemine, Lillian and Edwin Bagley, Ellie, John and Seman Huggins, Emma, Jessie, Jennie and Jasper Pemberton, Henry and Annie Gifford, and Henry Fitch. It seems that District #44 took some of the District #35 students.

All the public schools in Priaire Creek Township have been closed and consolidated into various city schools.

The churches and schools played a part in the social life of both the children and adults. They had local talent programs, Womens' Circles, dinners and parties.

"CHEERIE CENTER CLUB"

The Cheerie Center Club was organized 9 April 1952, at the Charles Bosselman farm, one mile east of Worms. Those who joined were: Johanna (Charles) Bosselman, Lillie Bosselman, Ella (James) Bremer, Anna (Herbert) Dankert, Mrs. Fred Feinhold, Mrs. A.F. Otto, Agnes (Harold) Scheer, Frieda (Reinhard) Schipman and Melba (Edwin) Schipman. Joining later that same year were Helen (Fred) Oberschulte, Viola (Fred) Kamper, Mildred (Erwin) Kohtz, and Annetta (Norman) Bosselman. Officers were Mrs. A.F. Otto, president; Ella Bremer, vice president; and Agnes Scheer, secretary/treasurer.

The club has maintained a steady membership of eleven to sixteen members. They have had Valentine's Day and Christmas Parties, and family picnics in area parks. They've learned to knit, crochet, quilt, and bake bread. They've had Pennies for Friendship, secret heart sisters, silent auctions and bake sales. They've made tray favors for hospitals and visited shut-ins. They've taken vegetables, handwork, and homecanned items to the Merrick County Fair, often with one-hundred per cent participation, and won an impressive number of ribbons. Club members have given generously of their time when asked to help with special projects of 4-H and Extension Councils.

Ella Bremer and Frieda Schipman are still members of the club, along with Paula (C.L.) Bosselman, Delores (Vernon) Bruns, Jeanie (Loy) Glause, Stella (William) Glause, Linda (Phillip) Hannemann, Sheryl (Lynn) Hill, Rose (Harold) Kuck, Julie (Dean) Loeffelbein, Hattie (Julius) Scheer, Naomi (Albert) Schipman, Betty (Alfred) Schlueter, Jetta

(Fred) Von Ohlen, and Pat (Gordon) Wieck.

1981 officers are Naomi Schipman, president; Pat Wieck, vice president; and Rose Kuck, secretary/treasurer. *Submitted for Cheerie Center Club by Pat Wieck and Paula Bosselman*

"PRAIRIE CREEK IMPROVEMENT"

Prairie Creek Improvement Club organized in the spring of 1936, with eight members joining: Mrs. Mollie Jones, Mrs. Lizzie Rice, Mrs. Mamie Scheer, Mrs. Eunice Kucera, Mrs. Irma Kucera, Mrs. Hattie Scheer, Mrs. Anna Magnuson and Mrs. Bell Fauquier. Thirteen other clubs formed that same year. Our club was instrumental in forming several of the clubs. Dues were three cents for each person. Our club was an active club and did many good deeds.

We clothed a needy family and sent CARE packages to families overseas.

Prairie Creek Club organized the program book that is in existence and still used today. We faithfully display a booth at our county fair each year.

A "couples night" and a family picnic are yearly events. Several members have served as Merrick County Extension Chairman; 1954, Mrs. Edna Hanke; 1956, Mrs. June Webb; 1959, Mrs. Robert Smith; 1973, Mrs. Edna Shull; 1974, Mrs. Nora Lindner; 1979, Mrs. Verna Zmek and in 1981 Mrs. Levada Nielson.

Mamie Scheer, a charter member, is still in our club. *Submitted by Mrs. Joyce Rice*

"JR. FARMHANDS"

The Jr. Farmhands 4-H Club was organized in the Norman Bosselman home two miles east of Worms with Norman being the first leader. The club was formed in 1956, and at that time it was required there be six members to organize a club. Charter members were — Curtis Bosselman, Kenny and Dean Loeffelbein, Ronnie Scheer, Danny and Gordon Wieck. The first year club projects were sheep and 4-H tractor.

Leaders who have given time and talents to the Jr. Farmhands are — Norman Bosselman (1956-65), Harold Scheer (1957-58), Kenneth Loeffelbein (1961), Ervin Scheer (1962-63), Mrs. Herman Frauen (1962-68), Clarence Benson (1964-73), Earl Meyer (1966-79), Melvin Meyer (1974-75), Mrs. Walter Kurz (1971-), Mrs. Harold Bader (1972-80), Cork Dammann (1976-78), Larry Kelly (1978-) and Gary Bader (1980-).

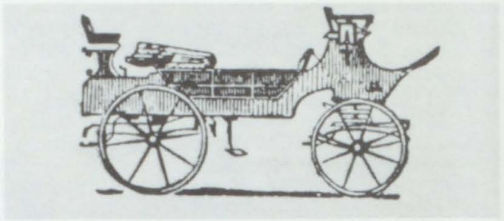
The club has always been very active in participating in the Merrick County Fair.

The club currently has nineteen members, and some of their projects are — beef, swine, sheep, small fowl, baking, sewing, photography, gardening, and rifle safety and marksmanship.

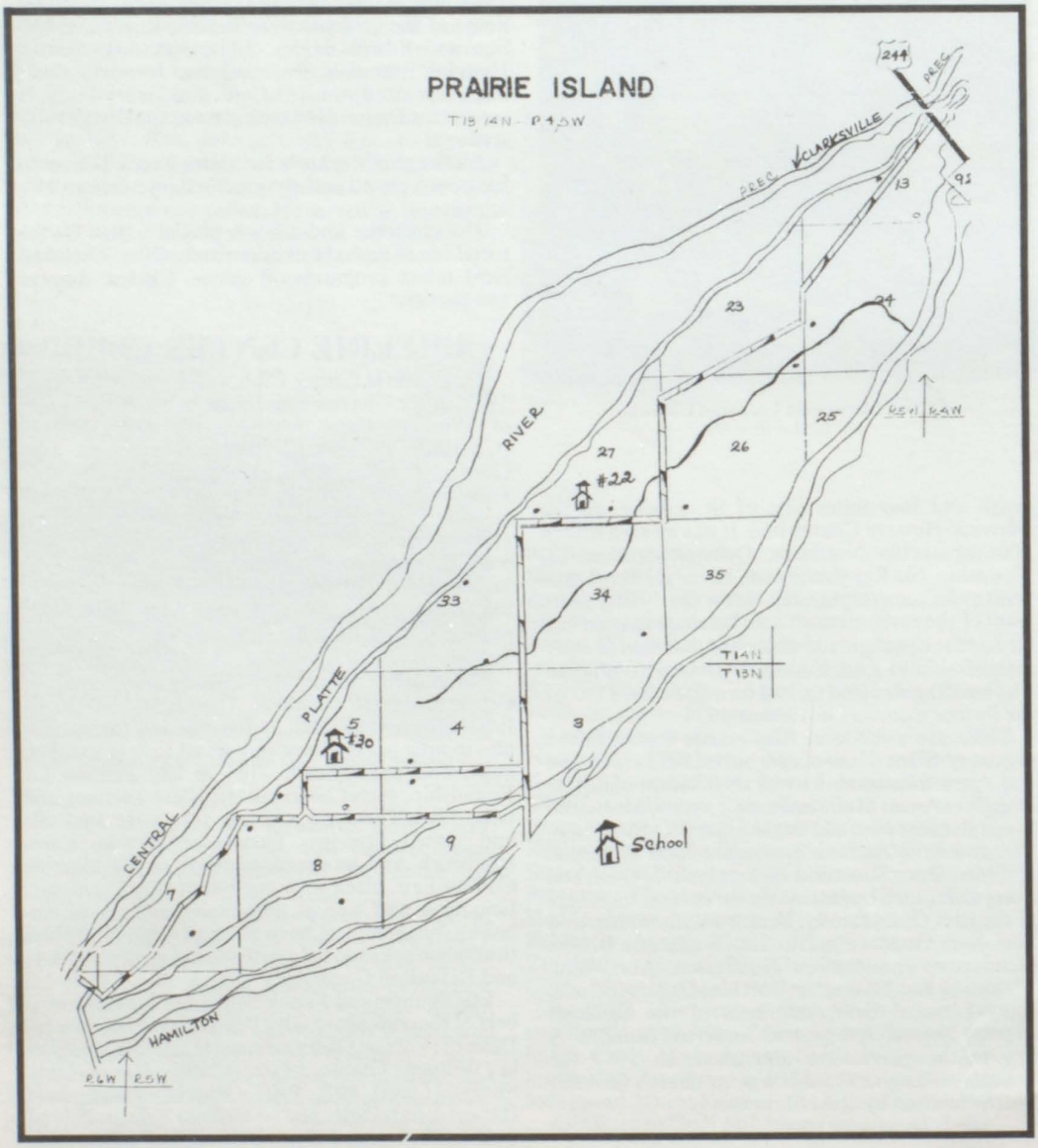
Members in January of 1981 are — Candi Anderson, Kristy Bader, Shayne Bader, Kirk Bader, Tanya Bader, Lana Bader, Angie Kelly, Amy Kelly, Bonnie Kurz, John Meyer, Brad Meyer, Staci Meyer, Jackie Schlueter, Stephanie Schlueter, Jennifer Schlueter, Greg Wichmann, Lisa Wichmann, Brad Wieck and Nichole Wieck. *Submitted by Pat Wieck*



Christmastime in Zion Evangelical Association Church near Archer, before 1919.



Prairie Island Township



The first Annual Meeting of Prairie Island Township was held in the Prairie Island Schoolhouse, District #30 on April 2, 1889. First Supervisor was James Eatough, clerk James Jensen, and Justice of Peace L.H. Orman. They purchased two road scrapers in 1891 for $16.50. In 1895, the Road Overseer was Chris Miller, who was authorized to hire out road scrapers at ten cents per day and road grader at thirty-five cents per day. He was authorized and instructed to make and repair roads in the township, at expense of township, with work to be done on most traveled roads and wages paid per day not to exceed one dollar and seventy-five cents for men and their team.

The township had two school houses and they were referred to as then "higher end" District #30, and the "lower-end" School District #22. Besides District #30 school being used for Township meetings, it was also later used as a voting place for both residents of the island and Riverside Park. When the schoolhouses were sold and moved, District #30 was moved to the V.C. Shoop home and later to the Covenant Cedars Bible Camp. In 1948, E.A. Carlson deeded forty-two acres of land to the Evangelical Covenant Church for a church camp ground.

Kristoffer Neilsen, the grandfather of Paul C. Nielsen, in getting his plot from the government, is said to have broken sod with the oxen. This farm was in the family until 1974. He told of an Indian putting his hand in the door of the house, feeling the heat left, and not bothering them.

In 1904, E.A. Carlson was a boy of ten when his parents purchased part of the land which now comprises the Carlson farm. At that time, there were only a few cedars which covered the hills and valleys along the south bank of the Platte River. This particular area was a land of sub-surface lakes. The land along the river was quite lush because it was nourished with plenty of sub-surface moisture. The dense forest of cedars which make up the growth on the twelve hundred acres E.A. Carlson owns, three miles north of Hordville, are the result of years of seed, before becoming fertile, going through the digestive organs of a bird. Until the

birds arrived in large numbers there was little or no growth of new cedars. Besides the millions of cedars sold through the years, the last two years there have been two cedar mills which saw and ship cedar boards out-of-state to help clear the pasture ground.

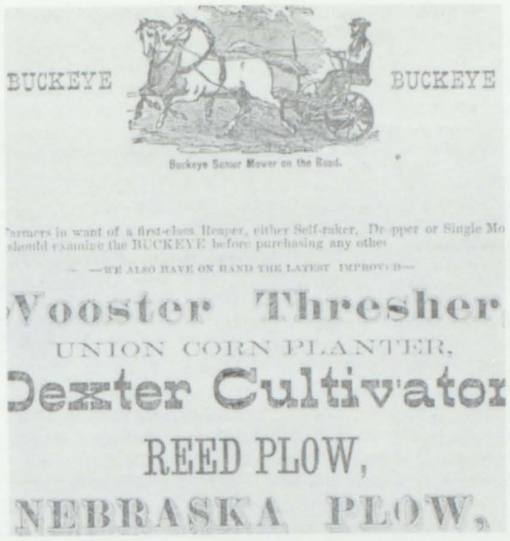
About one-half of the island is old river bed and composed of sand. There are bridges leading in and out of the island which is thirteen miles long and two miles wide.

In 1922, they put in the land-fill joining Prairie Island and Davis Island using a steam upright boiler. Ed Small helped with a team of four head of horses to pull the boiler.

A new bridge was built in 1958, and was opened in March 1959, with no by-pass in the middle of the bridge as the old bridge had always had.

Many times residents have been stranded following floods in Central Nebraska, and in the spring when ice jams have taken spans of the bridge out. The Platte River, when overlowing its banks, often cuts deep gulleys thru the road at the lower end of the island.

Central City is two feet lower than the island bridge so they have to fill the ditches and sand bag some areas to keep the river from flooding into Central City. *Information Given by Mr. Ed Small and Mrs. Emmett Shoup*



From Lone Tree Courier
Percival and Waters publishers

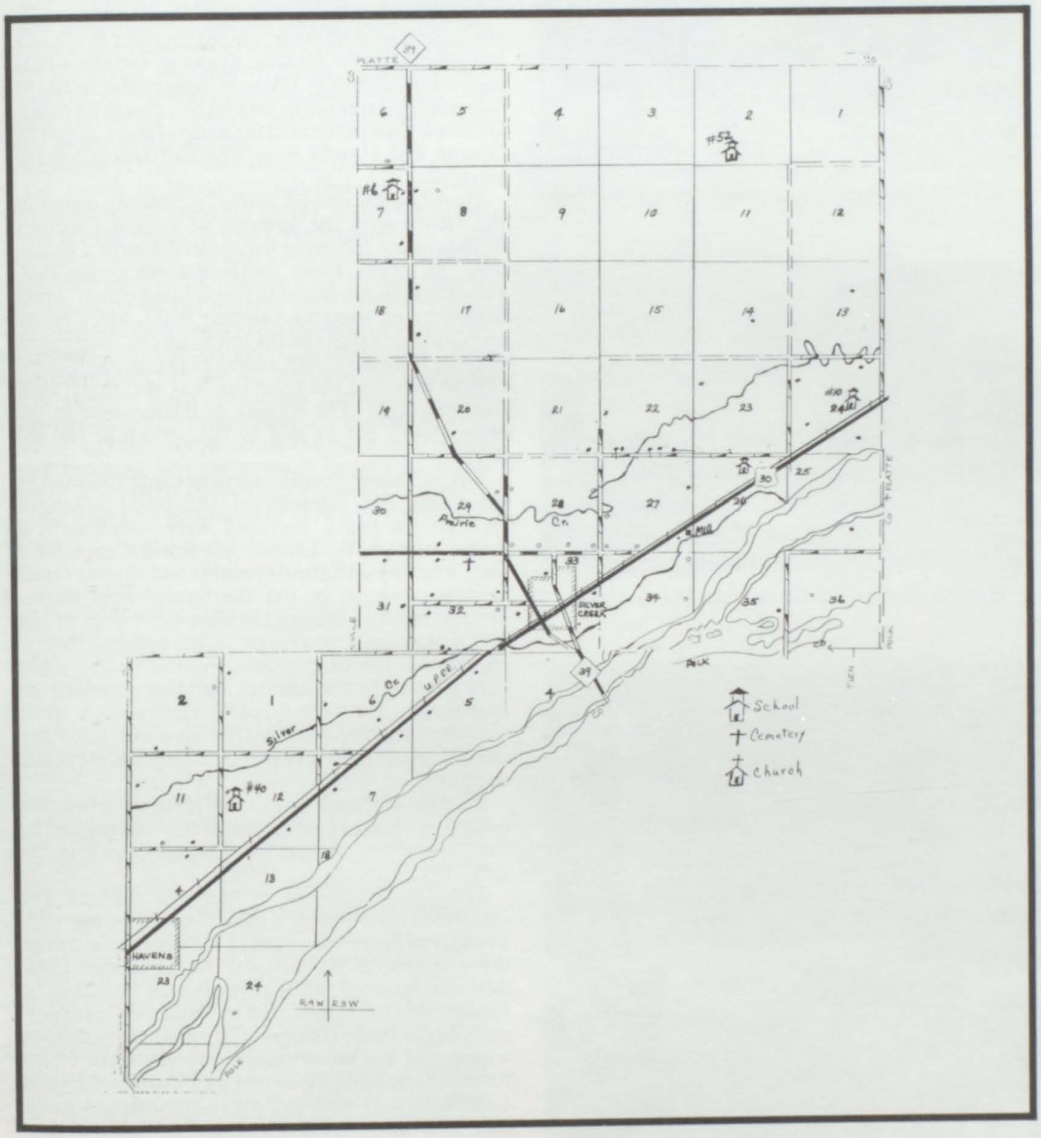
LONE TREE, May 26, 1874.

We, the undersigned citizens of Lone Tree and Prairie Island Precincts, respectfully request that a meeting of the citizens of the above named Precincts, be held at the Court House in Lone Tree, at 2 o'clock P. M. Saturday, June 6th, 1874, for the purpose of taking steps to form a Bridge Company to bridge Platte River:

Ed. Parker,	Berryman & Bro.,
M. L. Wright,	John Hays,
Jacob Fuhrman,	D. Thomas,
W. E. Letcher,	J. J. Fisher,
J. S. Wylie,	Parker Bros.
Skinner & Stone,	R. W. Travis,
D. Martin,	J. B. Whittaker,
McEndree & Wylie.	

Petition appearing in Lone Tree Courier of Thursday June 4, 1874

Silver Creek Township



July 7, 1871, the former east precinct of Merrick County was divided into two precincts. Silver Creek Precinct was designated as number one. The voting place was at the depot, and first officials were: S.A. Brown, justice of the peace; Richard Tesman, justice of the peace; B.F. Hobart, constable; E.C. Shaw, assessor; and John Louis, road supervisor.

Silver Creek Township is responsible for the township roads and the Silver Creek Township Library.

The present board members are Virgil Kuta, Donald Liss, and Edsel Matousek. *Submitted by Township Chairman, Kathleen Starostka*

SILVER CREEK

Easternmost in Merrick County is the village of Silver Creek, population 493, named after the stream which empties into the Platte River south of the town. Originally it was called Silver Glen and was situated at Lathrop's ranch, one and one half miles northeast of the present town site. In 1865 the Stage Route Post Office was established there. In 1866 the Union Pacific platted the town in its present position. The town first housed a depot, a section house, and the B.F. Hobart house, built in 1870. At that time the railroad track was single with passing, or side tracks, every five or six miles.

The first bridge across the Platte River from Silver Creek was built in 1877, replaced in 1925, and again in 1972.

Telephones were installed in the village in 1906. Electricity came in 1914.

The first school was a private school started in 1870, and held in the Lee Hotel.

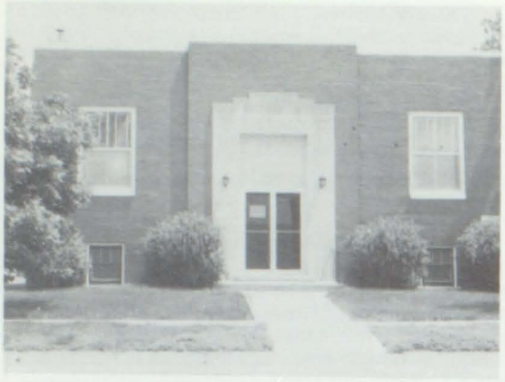
Silver Creek's first newspaper was the **SILVER CREEK TIMES,** started in 1887 by C.H. Urwin. After the Times expired, Dyo Davis began the **SILVER CREEK SAND** in 1903, and continued until 1950, when it was purchased by John Carter of Clarks. Later the "**Sand**" news was printed in the **Osceola Record** until Richard Woods, Palmer, founded the **TWIN CITY POST,** a hometown paper for Silver Creek and Clarks, on March 2, 1972.

At one time there were as many as four churches in Silver Creek. St. Stephen's, a Protestant Episcopal Church, was started in 1869. The Congregational Church was organized in 1874. The Methodist Episcopal started in 1888. St. Lawrence Catholic Church was constructed in 1902. The Methodist at the corner of Elm and Fourth Streets, and the Catholic at the corner of Vine and Fourth, remain today.

Silver Creek Cemetery is located one half mile west of Highway 39 northwest of the town. The first burial of record was in 1881. St. Lawrence Catholic Cemetery is just north of Highway 30, two and one half miles southwest of the town. The first burial took place there in 1938.

The Silver Creek Township Library was organized in 1917, through the efforts of Charles Wooster and other interested citizens. The present building, at the corner of Vine and Fourth Streets, was built in 1934. Cataloging of more than six thousand volumes was undertaken by volunteers in 1977, and completed in 1981. Additional Silver Creek history is stored at the library in a 1966 Centennial book, newspapers, and individual memoirs which have been presented to the library.

Before private automobiles were so plentiful there were many retail shops in town. One of the earlier



Township Library

businesses was Metzers flour mill which they ran from 1907 until 1941 when it burned. Kula's Store, formerly Roth and Kula since 1898, still operates at its original site on the corner of Highway 30 and Vine Street. The Dutch Mill, a former gas station, still stands along Highway 30. Grosch Irrigation Company is the largest company in town.

Not all people in Silver Creek, however, were intent upon raising schools and churches. There was a time early in this century when desperados, bootleggers and necktie parties were not uncommon. Now those days are gone and the business of the town depends upon the agriculture of the area.

Men and women from Silver Creek have served the nation in the military forces during the Blackhawk War, the Spanish American War, the Civil War, World War I and II, and the Korean and Viet Nam conflicts. A very active American Legion and Auxiliary counts a large membership. An addition doubling the size of their building was opened in 1981 on Vine Street next door to the dancehall.

Since the Centennial history was written in 1966, many changes have taken place. In June, 1967, after weeks of rain, the village was surrounded by a flood of Prairie Creek, Silver Creek, and the Platte River. In January 1970, a large fire downed part of the older Farmers Co-op Grain elevator. The fire burned for several days and much grain was destroyed. The building has been replaced. 1972 saw the construction of Silver Creek Pipe and Supply plant west of Highway 39. Grosch Irrigation later moved to that section also. Bids were let for a new village park and pond on the south side of town. At the Post Office, Sunday mail service was discontinued on July 1. In that same year Silver Creek hosted the first annual Grand National Mixed Bag Hunt, a three day program which stressed conservation and the "Acres for Wildlife" program.

In 1974, it was learned that the village-owned quonset-shaped Pioneer Ballroom needed extensive renovation. Citizens volunteered to contribute funds for the repairs and so once again the dancehall throbs to the sound of polka bands, wedding dances, and the local Fireman's Ball.

During our nation's bicentennial the American Legion and Silver Creek Civic Club sponsored a community pot luck picnic, complete with water fights, children's games, baseball, and a street dance. Because of its success it has become an annual tradition every Fourth of July since 1976.

1980 brought the remodeling of the high school building. Park Place Apartments, a government financed housing project for elderly and handicapped, opened just north of the new park. More housing followed in 1981, with West View Apartments, a four-plex of two bedroom apartments, two blocks to the west. K&L Irrigation put up a large office and shop building. Latest to open in growing Silver Creek was the 820,000 bushel Platte Valley Terminal elevator one and one half miles northeast of town on Highway 30, just opposite the spot where this history first began in Silver Glen in 1865.

So we have come full circle with the little town on the Platte which continues to change in size and shape, and to grow in progress and pride.



Northeast part of town — 1907



Plasterers and their tools at a school house — 1911



Scenes around Silver Creek shown on picture postcard.

HAVENS

The hamlet of Havens has both flourished and languished as it experienced the vageries of the economic and soiological changes in the rural community which surrounds it.

It began as a siding built in the 1860's by the Union Pacific railroad midway between Clarks and Silver Creek to facilitate the movement of their trains going opposite directions on a single track.

The first business was a simple store handling basic supplies operated by Alex Blair and later (in the 1890's) by the Bongart family. It also provided a weighing service for farmers shipping grain out in boxcars.

Wells and Hord built a grain elevator along the tracks in 1901 and moved Clay Shepherd from the Hord and Shonsey cattle operation at Clarks to operate it. Hords who had purchased the forty-acre site flanking the railroad, platted the area south of the tracks with streets and residential as well as business lots.

In 1914, Gus Knoebel built the first store on the west side of Main Street and Hords added two store buildings, a theater and a bank on the east side. At the south end of the block they erected a large garage for a machinery repair business. Cecil Layton's store complete with general merchandise and hardware and a produce purchasing station was the first business occupant. He also operated the theater. The family lived in one of the two houses Hord's had built on the south side of Eleventh Street.

The bank was opened by the Chamberlain family of Clarks and Walter, Jr. (June) was sent to operate it. Later they sold to Mrs. Kranz of Omaha whose son-in-law, James P. Gleason, operated it until the financial disaster of the late 1920's closed its doors. Gleasons then purchased the general store owned by George and Harold Buss who had succeeded the Laytons.

Havens grew into an active community center in the 1920's with the addition of Leland Crozier's filling station following the construction of a bridge over the Platte River south of town giving Polk County residents access to this trading center, grain handling and livestock shipping point. Mr. Crozier installed a dynamo and the town had electricity each evening from dark until a blink of the lights signaled closing time and the generator was shut down until the next night. The coming of REA power in the early 1940's put an end to the service of the old diesel.

Various businesses and services came and went as the needs and interests of the people changed through the years. Included were restaurants, a doctor when L.W. Elwood left Silver Creek for a time, a barber on Saturday nights and various forms of entertainment in the theater — road shows, dances, movies. During the dust bowl days of the 30's when money was really scarce and gas, though cheap, was not used needlessly, the Friday night card parties in the theater building provided an opportunity for economical socializing. A dime given by each man paid for the rolls and coffee when the games of High-Five played at homemade tables were over.

Havens suffered a loss of identity when the postoffice located in the general store was closed by the government during the financial pinch in the early 1930's.

Fires played a role in business changes and closures. Gus Knoebel's store burned in the mid-1920's and he moved to one of the store buildings on the east side of Main Street. In November 1948, during a blizzard, all four connected buildings on the east side were destroyed by flames which apparently began in the Hemmer Garage on the north end wiping out his business, the grocery store in the former bank building owned by Edwin and Lucille Lukasiewicz as well as their living quarters in the rear and those of Jim and Belle Wolfe, former storekeepers, who had remodeled the theater into a home. The Wolfes and Hemmers both left town. Lukasiewiczes built a small store on the site and operated it for a time. Later, Leslie Juhl and family erected a home and a building for a garage business on the west side. When fire destroyed the house, they too, left.

It was in 1936 that the Garage became a recreation center for dances and roller skating when Joe



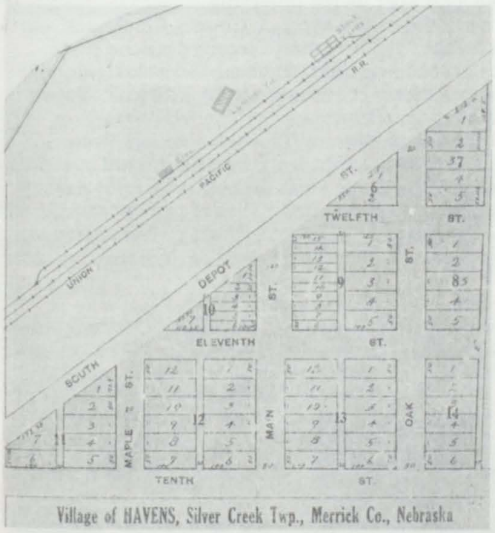
Havens scene showing bank, picture show and garage

Monson purchased the building and remodeled it. Dittmer Brothers who were operating the garage business moved to the building on the north end of Main Street displacing the Chas. Shepherd family who were living there while operating the grocery store next to it.

The dance hall has different owners and has been updated with a modern bar and is often the locale for receptions. The original dwellings no longer exist but two others have occupants, the house originally moved in for the Ray Darnall family who operated the cafe in conjunction with the dance hall and the home of Fred and Vanda Dittmer.

The grain elevator presently owned by Ira Reisener now has a feed business but the coal sheds, lumber yard and cribs for ear corn are long gone, as is the stock yards for shipping livestock and the small wooden depot where freight shipments were left and people waiting for one of the passenger trains to stop could be out of the weather.

Although Havens never fulfilled the expectations of the Hords to become a full-fledged town (its population seldom reached forty), it was the social center for the residents and farm families in a wide area surrounding it, as well as furnishing the basic necessities of life. Its demise as a trading center began as soon as the poverty days of the Thirties were over and both roads and automobiles improved and people had money to go where there was a wider selection of merchandise and services. The complexity of modern farm machinery requiring repairs from the manufacturers instead of some new bolts or a bit of welding also doomed the once flourishing repair business. But the memory lingers on. *Compiled by Rose Betts from Notes Prepared in Collaboration with Etta Shepherd in 1976 and Updated in 1981*



Havens

SCHOOL DISTRICT #6

A District school was organized in 1871, and a large wooden school building built in 1886. The present brick high school building was erected in 1910 and remodeled in 1980. The elementary school was built in 1960. The large steel high school gymnasium was constructed in 1973.

The present superintendent is Jack Burger. School board members are Ernest Fuehrer, President; Bruce Frizzell, Treasurer; Vance Condon, Gary Ferris, Kenneth Lemp, and Kathleen Starostka.



District #6 High School at Silver Creek

SCHOOL DISTRICT #10

District #10, known as the Tolman School, was built about 1877 northeast of Silver Creek.

The school was closed after the 1965-6 school year. The last teacher was Dorothy Gonsior. The school board members at that time were Raymond Paczosa, Tony Micek, and Elmer Kummer.



Tolman School — records in Silver Creek Public Library

SCHOOL DISTRICT #40

This district was formed in the 1880's. Kindergarten through eighth grade was taught and the schoolhouse also served as a place for social events, including monthly literary meetings. The school served continuously until it was merged with District #6 in 1951.

Some of the school board members of fifty years ago were Alma Pfeiffer, Herman Strohbehn, Charles F. Shepherd. Etta Antrim, later Mrs. Charles Shepherd, attended school there as did her two daughters and two granddaughters. School board members of later years were Merle Little, James Regan, Joe McDaniel. The last three board members were Clinton Colby, Director; E.M. Jacobsen, Treasurer; and Ervin Garretson, Moderator.

Agnes Holmes taught for the most years in the school, starting in 1928 and teaching through the 1932-3 school year. Teachers in later years were Ila Peterson, Carol Atkinson, Mrs. Morrow, Welcome Willets, Alnetta Karges, and Caroline Craig. The last teacher was Margaret Beck.



District #40 — east of Silver Creek

The school had two entrance doors each opening into separate cloak rooms. With no indoor plumbing, a drinking water pail sat on a bench. Filling the pail from the hand pump in the school yard was the task of the older boys. There was a coal stove in the center of the building providing warmth for cold days and, beginning in the 1930's, heat for the students' food or soup sitting on top.

In the schoolyard were a coal shed, horse barn (some students arrived in buggy, pony cart, or on horseback), an outhouse, and a storm cave. The bell hung from a separate tower.

ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Several Catholics of Silver Creek, led by Mr. Rossiter asked for services on the occasion of the Rt. Rev. Bishop's visit to Krakow, the neighboring parish, in 1901. His Lordship visited Silver Creek and granted permission to collect for a church. However, in that year, 1901, nothing was done because the crops failed.

Permission was asked and given to hold monthly Divine Services in a private home. Frank Pollard's home was chosen. The first services were held there on July 27, 1902.

In the fall of 1902, Mr. Rossiter started a successful subscription for the new church. A 60 x 120 lot was bought for $750. In November, work was begun on a church building, twenty-eight x fifty feet, to cost $980.

A feeling arose among the people that the church needed a steeple. Albert Duster started a subscription for the steeple, which was to cost $200. The church, finished in August 1903, was blessed on August 18 with overflow attendance.

Services were held regularly every two weeks. Father Stanowski, pastor in Duncan, came by car or



St. Lawrence Catholic Church in 1981

train for 2 p.m. Sunday Mass in Silver Creek, or he went to Silver Creek for Saturday instructions and stayed overnight, then after Mass, hurried by buggy to Duncan for High Mass.

John Kula accommodated the priests overnight. Also among the first parishioners were L.M. Rossiter, Frank Pollard, Adam Mason, Jerry Shanahan, Joe Wandro, John Swertzic, Sr., George Starostka, Frank Wandro, George Chmielicki, Albertus Duracinski, Patrick Donelly, Michael Kubas, Peter Liss, Albert Jacobi, Tom Dwyer, Martin Karges, Sr., and E.J. McCauley.

In January 1963, a building committee was elected: Edwin Shotkoski, Louis Sock and Albert Wandro. Later they were joined by John F. Sock, Daniel Shemek and Donald Chohon.

The old church was moved to the southeast corner, and ground was broken March 14, 1966. On April 9, 1967, Msgr. Buelt, Dean of Albion Deanery, as delegate of Archbishop Bergen, blessed the statue of St. Lawrence at the entrance, the bells, the tabernacle, and consecrated the altar. A mass followed.

Rev. Stanley Mitera was appointed to St. Lawrence and has been pastor since 1968. The rectory where he resides was built in 1955. Plans for a classroom building are in the future. *Submitted by Mrs. Phil Sock, Sr.*

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In 1877 or 1879 a record is made that a class was organized at Silver Creek. The charter members were: Dr. E.L. Robinson, Dr. and Mrs. Crisp, and Mr. and Mrs. James.

The first meetings were held in what was known as Hill Hall. The first pastor was J.E. Moore, who served from March 24, 1888 to September 25, 1888, when the first church was built.

In 1918, a move was made to construct a new church, this one seemed too small. A contract was let May 26, 1919. The estimated cost by the building committee was $27,832. The Building Committee was: Charles Lohr, Edgar Summers, Walter Bucholtz, William Davis, and Forest Sanders.



United Methodist Church

The dedication took place with an all day service on September 11, 1921. The two stained glass windows in the main auditorium were purchased for $525. The window on the east of "Christ knocking at the Door," was purchased by the Beracca Class of the Sunday School in honor of their teacher, Mrs. Alice Whited. The south window was dedicated to the boys who served in the Civil War, the Spanish American War and World War I.

In 1980, the church was remodeled and new exterior steps were installed.

In 1975, the Silver Creek Church and Fairview Church in Polk County joined with the United Methodist Church in Columbus.

Forty-one pastors have served the church. The present pastors are Gary J. Aten and John Mikkelsen.

FAIRVIEW CHURCH

The Fairview Church, south of Silver Creek in Polk County, was built in 1880. It has played a vital part in the lives of many people of the Silver Creek area. It is associated with the Methodist Church of Silver Creek.



Fairview (Beulah) Church South of Silver Creek

"DILETTANTES ART CLUB"

An art club was started in 1967, after Miss Bean, a teacher in Clarks school, helped the new members start painting. Membership was as low as fourteen and as high as twenty through the years, and has included members from both Clarks and Silver Creek. We had no instructor as such, but members helped each other and made suggestions as to right colors, brushes, etc. We exhibited our pictures at the banks in Silver Creek and Clarks, painted napkins for a Boy Scout banquet in Silver Creek, made miniatures for the Mixed Bag Hunt, and painted two murals for the Mixed Bag Hunt banquet. We exhibited our pictures in Kearney, at Nebraska Land Days in North Platte, and the club received a group trophy when we exhibited in Grand Island through the Nebraska Association of Art Clubs. Among the places the club visited were "The Attic" in Albion, Nebraska, "Warehouse Gallery" in Grand Island, Jocelyn Art Museum in Omaha, Gross' school in Rising City, and Terence Duren, Shelby.

Paint days were held outdoors at different times, and we had suppers for the husbands of members.



Members of the Dilettantes Art Club

Leland Zlomke suggested the name for our club. Dilettante means a person who follows an art or science only for amusement, although a good number of our pictures were sold through the years. It was encouraging to know that someone liked what we had painted, and we felt it was and is a wonderful hobby. *Submitted by Doris Johnson*

"PEPPY PACESETTERS"

The Peppy Pacesetters Home Extension Club of Silver Creek was formed in 1978. The organizational meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Gary (Jan) Carson on May 17 of that year. Charter members were Mrs. Carson, Mrs. Norman (Karen) Euse, Mrs. Virgil (Phyllis) Kuta, Mrs. Gene (Davida) Swertzic, Mrs. Udell (Jeri) Podliska, Mrs. Ron (Carolyn) Kershaw, Mrs. Jack (Margaret) Merrill, Mrs. Dean (Sandra) Spike, Mrs. Ron (Janice) Aye, Mrs. Jim (Sharon) Resh, Mrs. Gary (Genia) Ferris and Mrs. Jerry (Nancy) Nightingale.

Along with their participation in the county-wide Extension Club activities, such as the annual Tasting Tea, county fair entries and activities, achievement night, the 4-H awards banquet, cleaning of the 4-H building, spring tours, providing tray favors for the Litzenberg Hospital in Central City, and their regularly scheduled meetings and lessons, the members try to include special events for their own group. Some of these have been tours of interest to nearby metropolitan areas, such as the Old Market in Omaha and places of interest in Grand Island, and at least one group activity each year, shared with their spouses. A steak fry, a progressive dinner, a picnic, and an evening of dancing at the Flying V in Utica are some of these shared activities.

Self-improvement, enrichment, and awareness, for themselves, their families and their community are the criteria around which the members plan their lessons and activities, in keeping with the goals of all the Merrick County Home Extension organizations. *Submitted by M. Sandra Spike, Historian*

"WOMANS COUNTRY CLUB"

The Womans Country Club was organized December 1913, by a group of farm women. They chose blue and gold as their colors until 1920, when they chose pink and white.

In 1914, they had a tent exhibit at the Merrick County Fair and received many prizes.

The club, known as "The Thimble Club," then changed to "Mother's Improvement Club." As the group objected to that name, it was changed to "Woman's Country Club" in 1914.

They gave $5 toward the erection of the Soldier's Monument at the Silver Creek Cemetery in 1915. In 1916, they gave a 15¢ Tea, with the funds going for the benefit of soldier boys. They also made a quilt to be sold by the Red Cross. Two all-day meetings were held to sew for two needy families. A former member, Dorothy Wooster, gave an interesting talk of her experiences as Red Cross Nurse overseas.

The club dropped out of the State Federation in 1924, and then decided to join the County Federation. We attended several conventions and always had a number on the programs.

In 1966, at the Merrick County Centennial, our float, the "Quilting Bee," received second place.

For the State Centennial, we had a float using the theme "How They Used to Do Things." We won $30.

We do not have any charter members living.

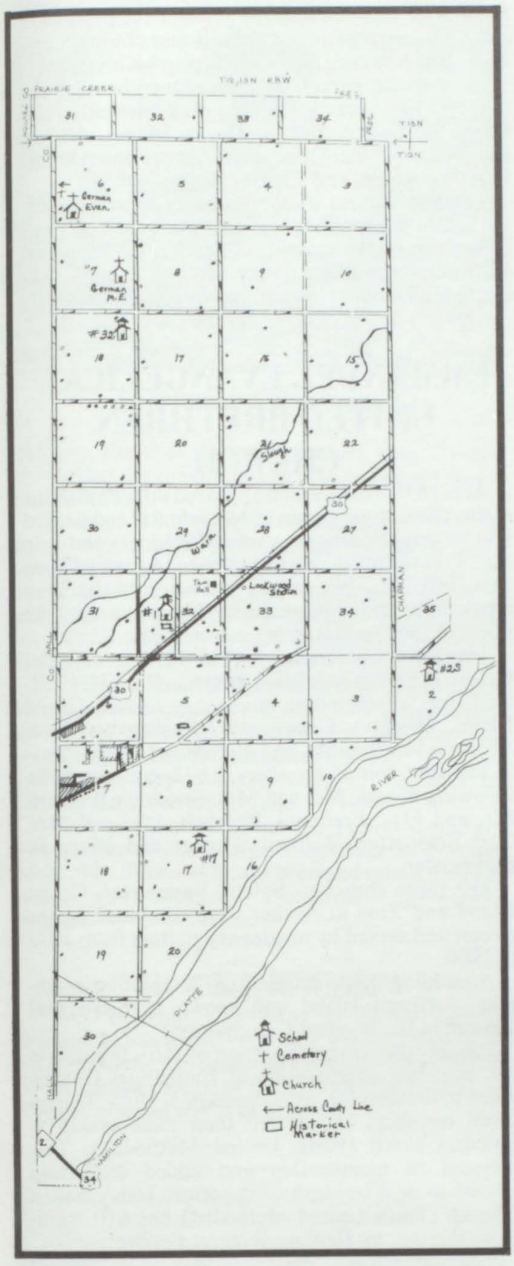
The oldest members are Gertrude Ward, a member for sixty-three years and Mabel Carter a member for sixty-one years.

The club is still going strong. *Submitted by Gertrude Ward*



1908 Basketball team

Vieregg Township



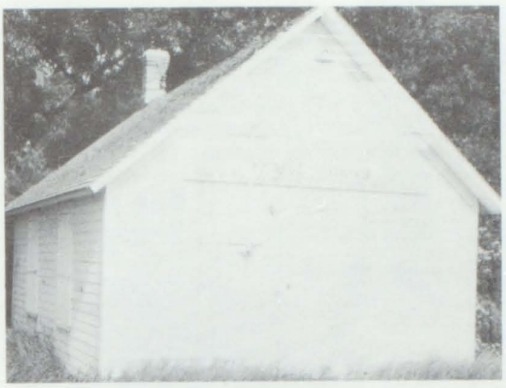
Vieregg Precinct (precinct #10) was established October 24, 1873, by the county commissioners. The names of the original township officials exist in spidery handwriting in county records, and we are unable to determine exactly who they were.

James Vieregg staked his claim to Nebraska land on September 5, 1859, and became the first white person to do so in Merrick County. Many hardships were encountered, but more and more people came to the area.

The area was called Lockwood in the early days. There were shipping yards along the Union Pacific railroad tracks south of the present township hall, and farmers would bring their cattle to load and ship them to market.

In the late 1920s, Lockwood also had a store, garage, and filling station. Our roads were first taken care of with horse-drawn equipment. The flood in 1967 left Vieregg Township with thirteen washed-out bridges. Roads now are maintained by the county. Voting is no longer done in our Vieregg town hall. District #1, Lockwood School, still exists. (See story on District #1) The country church here has been disbanded. There was a power plant many years ago, and families would gather on their beautifully-kept lawns to picnic. A tour of the plant today will show many acres of equipment.

The first gravel pumping was by Clarence Fleming, and the gravel used for roads. This job is now done by the Knight brothers, William and Andrew,



Vieregg Town Hall

who not only spread gravel, but asphalt and cement with their modern equipment.

Metal buildings and irrigation equipment are the business of Clarence Parsons here in the township. We still have many dairy farms, and one of the earliest, Fairacres Dairy, is still in operation.

Log houses and soddies gave way to beautiful homes and farmsteads. General farming in the township is done with the latest in machinery and equipment. The township includes many islands which provide refuge for wild life.

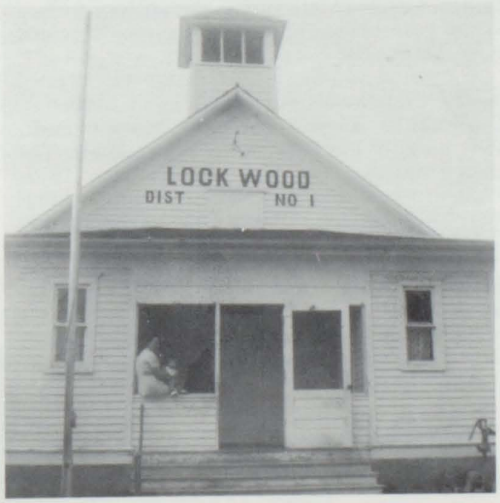
Martin Acres, right next to the Hall County line near Grand Island, has been subdivided into McLaughlin Acres. GlennView Trailer Courts are in the subdivision of Herbst. Another trailer court is named Mobile Manor. In 1966, the W.S. Subdivision, "Hooterville" was established.

The 1981 Vieregg Township Board consists of Donald Daberkow, Raymond Houdek, and Herman Schuett.

The township has seen murders and deaths, and transients who slept beside the roads and railroads. We have also had many marriages, one of which took place on the county line road between Hall and Merrick County. We have many gala affairs to remember our Vieregg Township by. *Submitted by Township Chairman, Mary R. Janky*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

School District #1, Merrick County's Lockwood School, is located five miles east of Grand Island in Lockwood Addition, and lies north of Highway 30 and the Union Pacific railroad tracks. Some of the children who attended when it first opened were Annie Frauen; Carl Stratman; Carl, August, Albert, Anna, and Frieda Stoppkotte; Henry and John Frauen. A few of the early teachers were Edna Zamzow, Geneva Brannan, H.O. Bay, Lillian Willman, and June Vipperman.



Lockwood School Dist. #1

Bill Wiegert, Albert Stratman, Bill Johnson, Ed Ruge, Paul Sass, Carl Stratman, Han Schuett, and William and Milda Muhs have served on the school board for District #1. Present board members are Larry Wiegert, Duane Witt, and Sharon Call. Bill Wiegert served for twenty years.

The present brick school building was erected in 1965, and a white modular building was added later. Sixty-two students attend the school in grades one through five. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students are bussed to Chapman; thirty-two students. Three teachers serve the district plus one teacher's aide. When the new building was built, the old one was sold to William Wiegert.

District #17 joined District #1 in 1978. Four generations of the Wiegert family have attended District #1: Annie Frauen Sass, Catherine Sass Wiegert, Larry Wiegert, and Lynn Wiegert. *Submitted by Judy Wiegert*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #2 SOUTH

Wilhelm Kuhlmann signed a warranty deed on August, 1881, to South District #2 for one acre of ground. It was to be used for school purposes. It was necessary to have two schools in the district because the Wood River flowed over in the spring and the children could not walk over the bridge. About 1900, the old south school house was torn down and a new building was constructed.

Helen Nordstrom, teacher in 1917, recieved $50 per month and paid $25 per month board and room. Some teachers received less.

Many pupils spoke German when entering school. "Spankings" were a common method used in keeping discipline. The North School board supervised both schools. The population was larger in the north district. Parents could choose which school they wanted their children to attend.

The South School was closed in 1952, and the building was purchased by Dick Niedfelt. Fire of unknown origin destroyed the building in 1967.

Available records list the following past teachers: Arlene Assen, Phyllis Bolling, Geneva Woodward, Doris Fenster, Lola Sickels, Jean Jemison, Elvera Johannes, Irene Larson, Lola Beck, Geneva Baker, Sarah Shoemaker, Wilma Bellin, Lydia Hohman, Vera Wiles, Lizzie Doll, Caroline Beman, Ellen Almquist, Esther Nelson, Helen Nordstrom, Elizabeth Fauquier, Bertha Bebb, Mabel Radcliff, Roy Hudson, Irene Sullivan, Leona Barnes, Wauneta Abbott, Lillie Phelps, Sadie Pease, Ines Shoemaker, F. Kittel, Daisy Shively, Leatha Mecham, Grace Hayse, Nelly Rose, Ruth Nelson, Iva Marshall, Ruth Vogt, Birdie Randall, Eva Shoemaker, Edna Dexter, O. Patterson. *Submitted by Lenore Schuette*

SCHOOL DISTRICT #17

District #17 was located in Section 17, Township 11, Range 8 of Vieregg Township. Some of the early students were Scherzberg, Meyer, Lilenthal, Johnson, Ernstmeyer, Zlomke, Siebert, Schmale, Staal, Homan and Duennermann.

One of the early teachers was a Mr. Roach. Evidently there were three generations in some of these families before, in the fall of 1971, due to large enrollment, the seventh and eighth graders had to further their education at District #74 in Hall County.

The last board members were Rudolph Kruse, Eldon Muhs, and Alvin Kowalski, when in 1975, District #74 would no longer accept the children. The children were then divided: part would go to Lockwood School District #1, and part to District #28 in Hall County.

The first school June Vipperman taught was District #17. Later, she had some of the same children in District #74 when she moved to the Hall County school.

The building was sold and dismantled by a Mr. "Hap" Opp of Wood River, Nebraska. The sale was held October 20, 1979. *Submitted by Mary R. Janky*

SCHOOL DISTRICTS #32, #42 and #45

On May 1, 1872, a petition was filed with the Merrick County Superintendent of Schools requesting a school district be formed in Township 12, Range 8. Among the petitioners were E.H. Gilbert; Thomas Skaife; Timothy Hall; J.W. Huff; George Huff; Enos Rice; Benjamin Rice; Bloomer Rice; H.E. Baumeister; John Reinhardt; George Enzensberger; J.C. Buckley; J.K. Meamber; and John W. Graham.

Charles E. Mead, County Superintendent of Public Institutions, addressed a notice to Benjamin G. Rice, which was hand delivered, on September 28, 1872, granting the permission to form *District #32*, with the first meeting to be held at the George S. Huff house with each resident in the area of the district to be notified of the meeting scheduled for October 7, 1872.

Following the original formation of District #32, the district was divided, with *District #42* being formed March 7, 1874, and *District #45* formed March 17, 1874.

Reports of annual school board meetings commencing with June 27, 1904, contain the following information:

Early members of the District #32 School Board were F.C. Rembolt, John Wiegert, Frank Niemoth, and H.G. Muller, who held positions of Moderator, Director, or Treasurer. Serving as second generation Board members were Paul Niemoth, who served more than twenty years, Harvey Rembolt, and Ray Wiegert. Theodore Buchfinck, Fred Beckmann, and Clarence Stratman also served for a number of years.

Among teachers in the school were Edna Cornwell, D.E. Magnuson, E.D. Patterson, Orral Young, Augusta Wagner, Belva Adams, and Charlotte Eaton.

Prominent names on the attendance records for more than sixty years were children of the Wiegert, Niemoth, Rembolt, Ehlers, Ruge, Rice, Heins, and Buchfinck families.

Earliest records available reflected a total of five mills allowed: three mills for teacher's fund and two mills for other purposes.

From the June 25, 1906, minutes are gleaned the following items:

$400 for school purpose

Eight months school (two months in the fall, one month vacation, then six months straight through) for the coming year.

Paint the school house

$200 for teacher's salary

Put in fifteen hitching posts south of the grove ($3 to Frank Niemoth, low bidder)

Hauling fuel, packing pump and removing same, mowing weeds and ploughing fireguard twice each ($7.50 to J.D. Rice, low bidder)

Hauling five loads of straw to mulch trees ($3 to Frank Niemoth, low bidder)

$12 to Director, $10 to Treasurer, and $4 to Moderator for salaries

Other items of interest:

— September 2, 1908: Paid Clara and Erna Wiegert $2.00 to clean school.

— November 30, 1908: Paid Hehnke and Company $34.50 for stove and coal bucket



Pupils in 1946-47 school year



Pleasant Ridge School. — The last day of school prior to the district's merger with District #1 R.

— June 14, 1910: Paid John Wiegert $2.85 for 2 loads of cobs and a broom

— June 1, 1911: Bought four school desks for $10.70

— 1909-1910 school term: Scarlet fever caused school to close three weeks early.

— 1916 school census: sixty-four children between ages of five and twenty-one.

— 1917 school picnic: 10 gallons of ice cream cost $10.00 and 1 box of cones cost $1.75

— June 12, 1922; Allow free high school tuition for three students — $324.00 total.

On March 8, 1963, District #32 was added to the Northwest High School District, but maintained its school for grades Kindergarten through eight.

On January 30, 1980, District #32 was dissolved and became a part of District #1R, Hall and Merrick Counties.

District #32 served a vital role in providing education for its students for over ninety-seven years and certainly deserves a place in the history records of Merrick County. (The school building was located in the northeast corner of Section 18, Township 12, Range 8.)

GERMAN METHODIST CHURCHES

These organizations were originally affiliated with the German Methodist Synod and were formed in the year 1873. The first pastor was Reverend C.W. Lauenstein.

The church building and parsonage were erected in 1873, on the southeast quarter of Section 7, Township 12, Range 8, Merrick County, immediately north of the District #32 school house. The church was discontinued in approximately 1919-1920, at which time The Rev. Herman A. Hungmeyer was the pastor. Pastors preceding him were G.J. Mueller and Rev. Tonat.

The church building and parsonage were sold to Theodore Buchfinck and made part of the improvements on his farm in the northeast quarter of Section 18, Township 12, Range 8, directly west of the District #32 school house. *Submitted by Karen Niedfelt*

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

This church organization was formed by a group of Merrick and Hall County persons, and meetings were held in the Hall County School District #45 building.

The church edifice was erected in 1900 and the first pastor was Rev. Herman Schumann. Rev. Schumann traveled many miles over the prairies to serve his congregations and built four churches and organized five congregations during his ministry.

Among the names of charter members of the congregation were families of Frank Niemoth, John Niemoth, Robert Kunze, Henry Blume, August Buchfinck, William Guenther, Magdalene Ahrens, Robert Buckow, and Charles Beyersdorf.

The church was discontinued in approximately 1910, and the building was sold and removed from its location on the east side of Section 12, Township 12, Range 9, just across the Merrick County line, inside Hall County. *Submitted by Karen Niedfelt*

EMMANUEL EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

Acts 16:9 "And a vision appeared unto Paul in the night, there stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." This scripture must have been impressed upon Mrs. Friedrich Wiegert as she wrote to the Iowa Conference and requested a missionary to meet the needs of the families in her community.

The Iowa Conference met in 1872 to consider Grand Island as a mission project. Rev. H. Stellrecht was appointed as missionary serving Grand Island, Wiegert Community, Schluetters (now Archer), Marquardts, and Hamilton County.

The first roll of members, 1872, contained the following names: Mr. and Mrs. Friedrich Weigert, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Rembolt, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schluetter, William Wenger and Mary D. Baumeister.

The three churches, Salem, Emmanuel, Grand Island and Zion at Archer were combined in one circuit and served by missionary pastors from 1872 to 1900.

A building was erected in 1879, ten miles northeast of Grand Island and known as Emmanuel Church in the Wiegert Community.

Largely due to the migration of farm families to the city, the congregation of Emmanuel Church voted to discontinue, as of January 1, 1965. Thirty-seven members transferred their membership to Salem Church (Faith United Methodist). This increase in membership and added leadership proved to be a strengthening factor. Today Salem Church (Faith United Methodist) has 610 members. *Written by Darlene Wiegert Levene*

WIEGERT CEMETERY

Friedrich Wiegert filed homestead rights on April 23, 1871. From this homestead, he gave land to Salem Church Association to be used as a community cemetery.

During the cold winter, Scheffel Monument from Grand Island would bring a vault out with a team and wagon. Then they would go to my grandparent's house, John and Anna Wiegert, for coffee and to get warmed up.

Cemetery cleanup was held twice a year.

As of 1951, it has been formed into the Wiegert Cemetery Association. It now has perpetual care. *Submitted by Darlene Wiegert Levene*

LAUREL CEMETERY

The Laurel Cemetery is an abandoned cemetery located on the District #2 school land, about three miles southwest of Chapman.It is located on the north side of the south west quarter of the south east quarter of Section 23, Township 12, Range 8. It is 258 feet long and 140 feet wide. The plot plan states that the ground was surveyed on the 28th day of June, 1884. E.E. Simmons was the county surveyor at the time. People who remember this early cemetery tell us that there were about thirty graves in the cemetery. Some were persons travelling through the area in covered wagons, who died while passing



Gravestones in Laurel Cemetery

through the area and were buried here. Several stones that are remaining bear the names of Cramer and McIntosh.

In May 1980, patrons of District #2 and the school board decided to clean up the burial place. About sixty persons cleaned the school ground and the pioneer cemetery. The Merrick County Supervisors approved county financial aid in clearing trees and debris. More clean-up is planned for the spring of 1981.

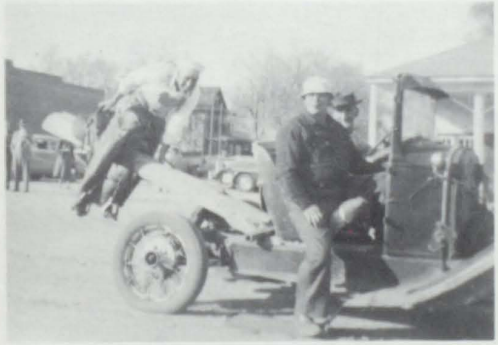
Family members tell us that William Shoemaker served on the cemetery board. Mr. Shoemaker's sister was buried in the cemetery, but was later transferred to another cemetery.

The cemetery was registered in the Merrick County clerk's office on June 19, 1978.

Much information about the Laurel Cemetery was obtained from George Shoemaker, of Nampa, Idaho. Mr. Shoemaker was born and raised near the school and cemetery. *Submitted by Lenora Schuette*

"BUCKING CAR"

This "Bucking Car" was made by George Wiegert. It was the Wiegert kids' car that they drove to High School. After they graduated, George made the car into a "Bucking Car," which he entered in parades in small towns in Merrick County.



Pictured is George driving the car, Marvin Rembolt in the saddle, and Harvey Rembolt walking along beside the car.

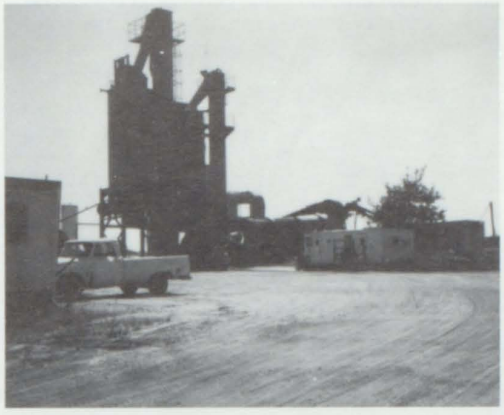
KNIGHT BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

The Knight Construction Company, started and operated by William B. Knight until his death in 1956, has been expanded by his sons, Andrew (Bud) and William R. (Bill) Knight. Bill's sons Kirby, Kevin, and Roger also work within the company.

For many years, their main work was highway construction. Jobs included those in the Republican River area after the disastrous flood of 1935, and construction of Merritt Dam on the Snake River.

In 1974 they constructed an asphalt batch-plant on the Vaughn Lewis farm on Highway 30 in Vieregg Township where they pump the necessary gravel for the hot mix. Since then they have hard-surfaced State Highway 30 between Central City and Grand Island and Highway 14 north of Central City, as well as numerous county roads, airports, and parking lots. Production annually runs from 80,000 to 100,00 tons of batch. Twenty to thirty men are employed as truckers and operators.

They also do land leveling for local irrigation. Recently their machinery has done much "knob-knocking" in the sandhills for center pivot irrigation.



Knight Brothers Plant.

"THRESHING TIME"

This picture of the threshing machine was taken at the George Wiegert farm.

The threshing machine was owned by Emil Wiegert, who threshed for many people in the Wiegert community.



Wiegert's Threshing machine

"SUNSHINE CLUB"

In May 1946, Stanley Whitson, Merrick County Agent, came to the "Last Day of School Picnic" at District #29. He discussed extension clubs with the ladies while the men and children were playing ball.

Mrs. Arthur (Cozetta) Klingenberg offered to have an organizational meeting at her home in September 1946. At that time, extension clubs started the new year in September.

The following officers were elected at that meeting; president, Cozetta; vice-president, Bernice Edic, secretary-treasurer, Daphna Hecht; news reporter, Ellen Miller; leaders, Agnes McGee and Loretta Janovec.



Sunshine Club

There were twelve members present, and the purpose of the club was to spread sunshine and cheer to the sick and the lonely. Membership would consist of ladies in the immediate neighborhood.

Members at the organizational meeting were: Bernice Edic, Dorothy Haddix, Daphna Hecht, Anna Janovec, Loretta Janovec, Lena Johannes, Cozetta Klingenberg, Dorothy Klingenberg, Agnes McGee, Ellen Miller, Mary Janky, and Clara Vieth.

When a member moved from the neighborhood, she was no longer a member of the club. During the thirty-five years since the Sunshine Club was organized, fifty-one ladies have joined the club. Eight of the members have passed away. Daphna Hecht is the only charter member in the club.

1981 officers and members are: Shirley Berg, treasurer; Donna Callihan, president; DellaMae Boltz, news reporter; Charlene Feddersen, vice-president; Daphna Hecht; Alma Herman; Gladys Klingenberg; Mabel Kuhlman; Marion White; Lenora Schuette; and Lucille Muller.

Members enjoy the fellowship and lessons from the Extension Service. *Submitted by Daphna Hecht and Lenora Schuette*

"VIEREGG STUDY CLUB"

The Vieregg Study Club is a club consisting of women who study legislation, go on tours, exchange ideas, have guest speakers and have fellowship. Members live in Vieregg and Chapman townships and in Grand Island.



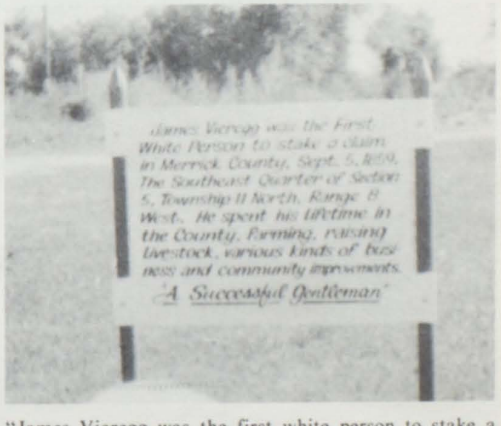
Vieregg Study Club

The organizational meeting was held April 19, 1966, at the home of Mrs. Frank Grosch with Mrs. Alfred Kuhlman as hostess.

Members present were: Christine Daberkow, Helen Grosch, Mabel Kuhlman, Dorothy Meier, Irene Meier, Lenora Schuette, Delma Stelk.

The group meets once a month in the member's home. 1980-1981 officers are: President — Connie Johnson; Vice-President — Eunice Thomas; Secretary — Delma Stelk; Treasurer — Delores Omel.

Members are: Christine Daberkow, Florence Dibbern, Connie Johnson, Mabel Kuhlman, Alma Meier, Dorothy Meier, Irene Meier, Delores Omel, Amanda Schinkel, Lenora Schuette, Delma Stelk, Lena Stratman, Nadine Terry, Gladys Werner, Eunice Thomas.



"James Vieregg was the first white person to stake a claim in Merrick County, September 5, 1859." Bicentennial Sign.



Janky's Harmonizers

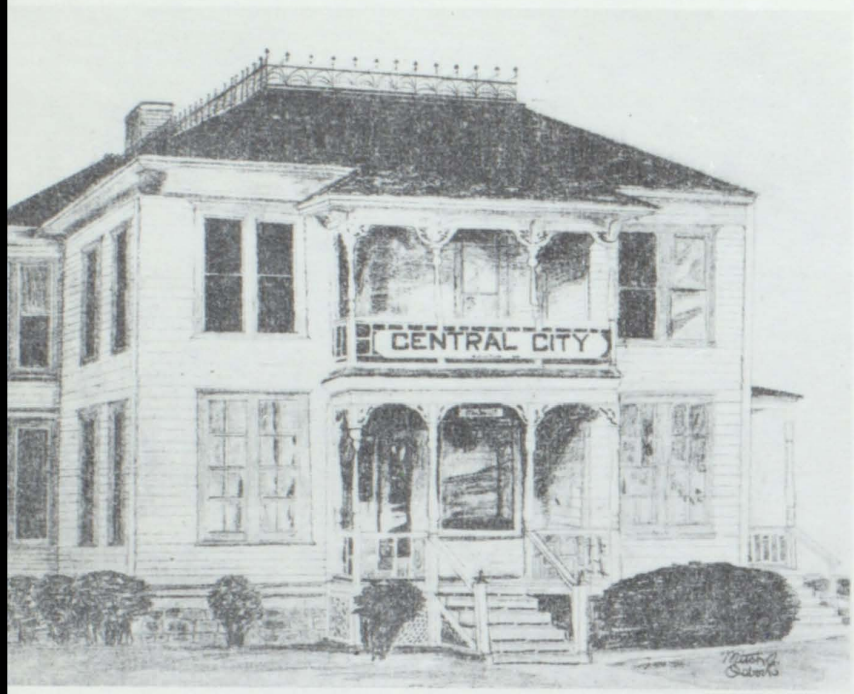
"JANKY'S HARMONIZERS"

This photo shows the Janky Orchestra in 1931. Before this time it was a family orchestra, consisting of Frank (Dad) Janky, Francis, Joseph, and Helen (Ruzicka). In later years, George and Rosemary (Mullen) played, too. All the Janky children and grandchildren seemed to be musically inclined. After Dad Janky's death in 1952, son George carried on with the orchestra for a number of years.

Dad Janky wrote and composed music without ever taking a music lesson. He played the accordion. Francis played a button accordion during high school, and would entertain between acts of plays and so on. Gary Dean, Francis' son, is the third generation to enjoy playing the accordion. He is playing in conjunction with his mission work in Ecuador, South America.

This year, 1981, Frank Janky is the only deceased member of the Janky Orchestra of 1931. The others have discontinued playing, except Paul Beckmann who now plays with the William Knight Orchestra. If they go to a dance pavillion, and the piano is not in tune, and Paul is aware of it, he will make every effort to tune it the afternoon before the dance.

Most everyone in the area remembers the Janky Orchestra playing for some special occasion. *Submitted by Mary R. Janky*



In sponsoring this book, the historical Museum is pleased to have had the cooperation of many people. The publication of this book is an achievement for which we hope the next generation may be grateful.

We hasten toward century twenty-one. Our infant children will reach maturity as we close the twentieth century. We hope that our culture and our stewardship of the land and the people will inspire them to take pride in their heritage.

Progress in the past century has given us communication with the world. The telephone, radio and television have overcome the isolation of the areas.

The era of the one room school has passed. The improved graveled or surfaced roads provide easy access for the motorized school bus to transport our children to educational centers.

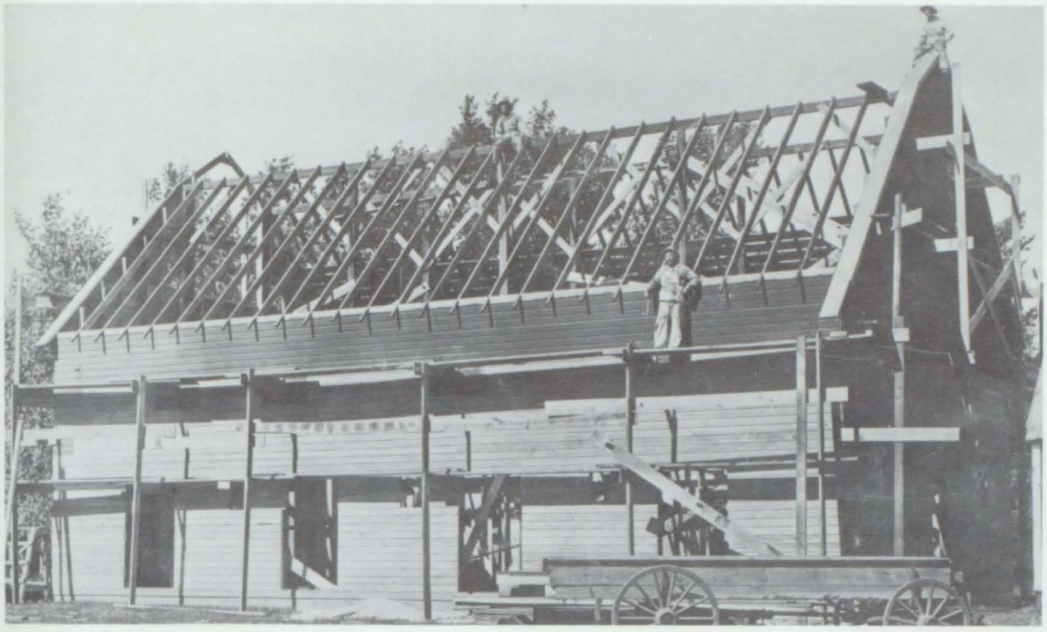
In the decade following 1940, our rural homes were electrified. Electrical energy, with lights, refrigeration, and other home comforts added to our good living standards. As this book is being published in 1981, we become concerned as some of our energy sources become depleted. Power for agriculture and transportation depend on the natural resources of oil and coal. We hope that both the soil and water resources may be treasured and conserved during the next century.

This book has been written about people. People have been the greatest resource of this community. Five or six generations, and beyond, have had good lives in Merrick County and central Nebraska. Their labor of the past one hundred years has created a neighborhood of peace, plenty and comfort. They have transformed the pasture of the buffalo into one of the world's most productive gardens. The fruits of the good life are ours to enjoy.

Neal C. Reeves

President of Merrick County Historical Museum

County Album



Barn built by Amon Sanders and sons, Forrest and Jack — Silver Creek — 1910



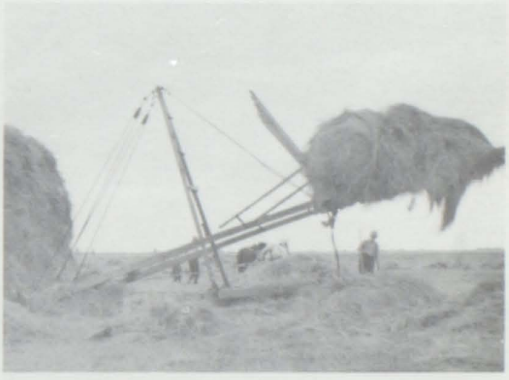
Lyman King on Titan

No ray of sunlight is ever lost, but the green which it wakes into existence needs time to sprout, and it is not always granted to the sower to live to see the harvest. All work that is worth anything is done in faith.

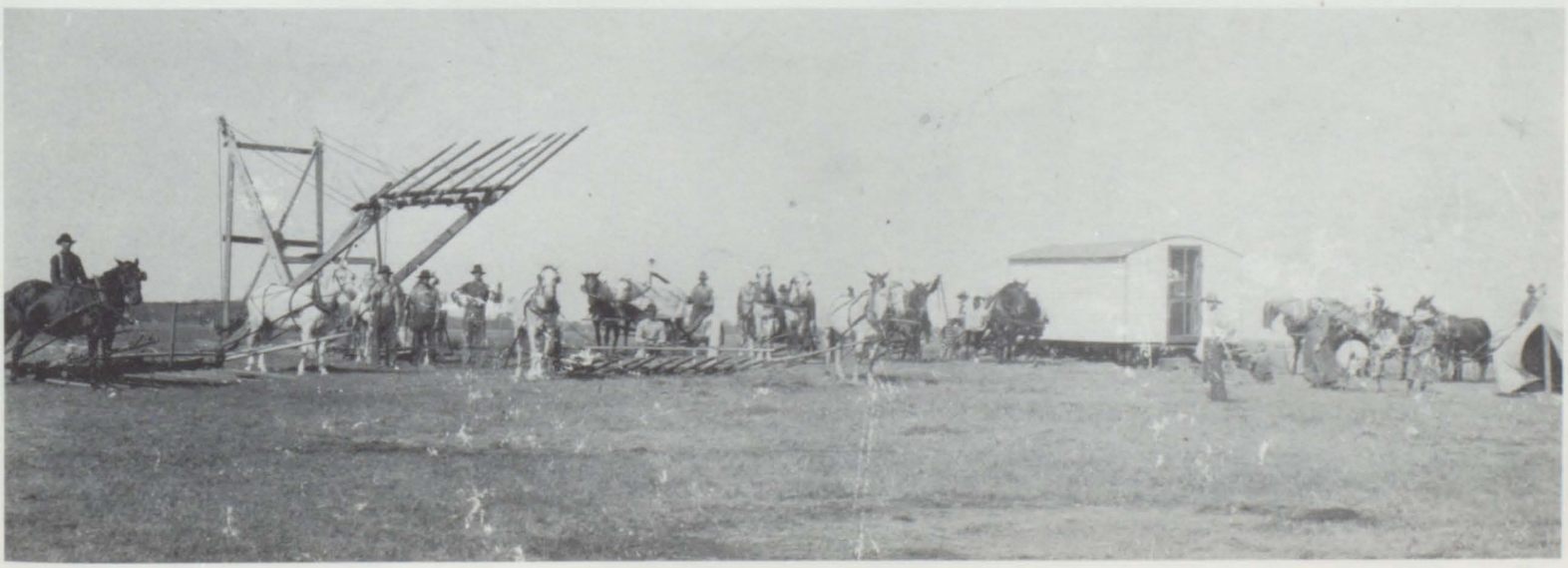
Albert Schweitzer



Harvesting in Merrick County



Hay Stacking, North of Central City about 1910



W.B. Shively Hay Gang — Central City



Threshing in Merrick County



A.H. Anthony's Sheep Ranch
Central City



Grigsby Farmstead — 1980



Winter of 1948-49



Cyclone at Ed Mattson Farm — 1924



Cattle near the river



Farmer's Grain Company — Central City
This elevator was moved to McHargue farm south of town in 1928



George H. Ferris with prized herd circa 1915



Truck line with Corn at elevator — 1981



Good Ole Days



200 acres of corn, Anthony Ranch



Full Load of Eggs Shipped to New York City about 1920 by P.A. Duffy. **L-r** — Philip A. Duffy, Fay Creech, Francis Heaton, Leonard DeWitt, others unknown.



Old Blevins Homestead West of Central City — 1908



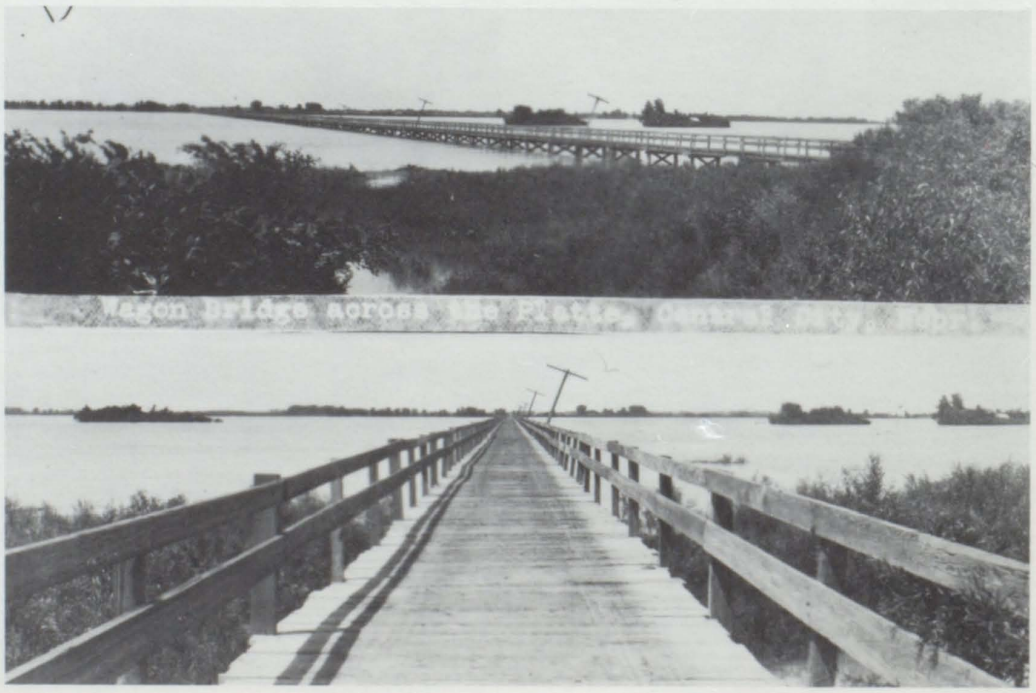
L-r — Marion, Joseph, Myrtle, Neva, and Dwain Kidwiler.



Will Edger, house mover, in white shirt. Moved from 1322 17th Avenue to Northwest corner of D Street and C Avenue.



One Day's Shoot on the Platte River near Central City



Wagon Bridge across the Platte — Central City



Combs House — Oldest frame house in Merrick County



William and Mary Ann Shoemaker



American Indians in Merrick County about 1890



Dedicating Lone Tree Monument — 1911



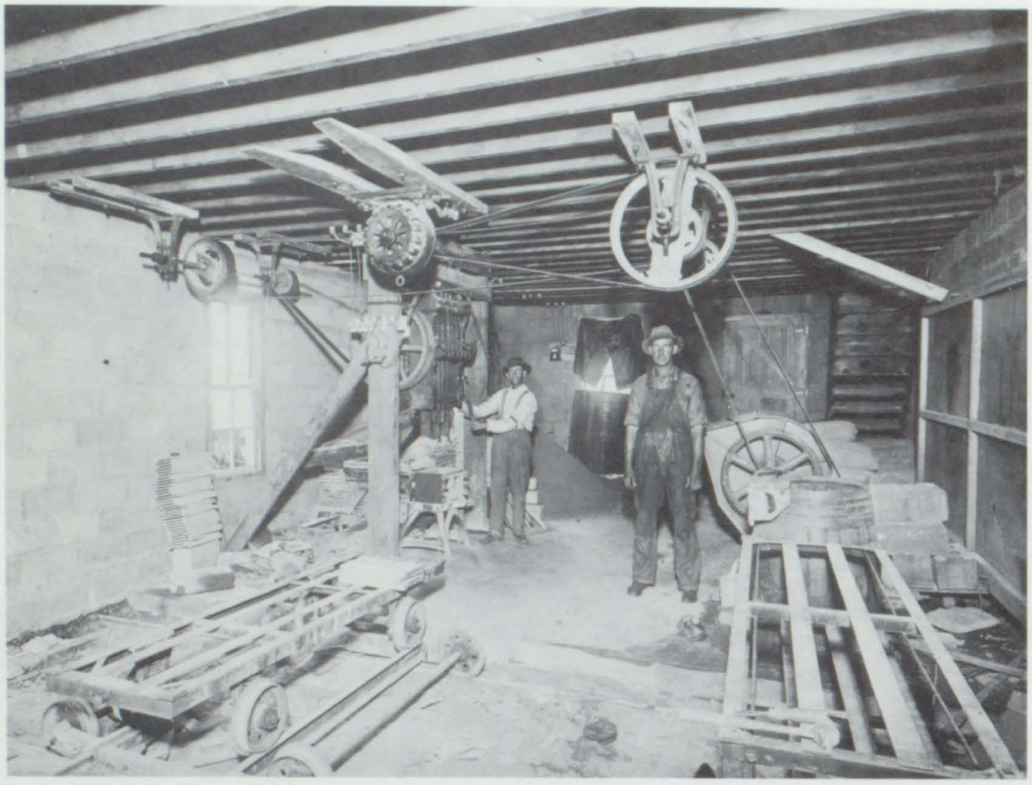
T.B. Hord Home Ranch





Old Chapman Hotel turned residence — 1942

Chicago Lumber Company Office — Chapman **L-r** — Jerry Fenton, Clayton French and David Magnuson.



Edger Block Factory
L — Will Edger.

Palmer Depot and Elevator





Northeast part of Silver Creek — 1907



Flooded Archer Street — 1905

First National Bank — Clarks



Bank of Clarks — 1981





Looking Northwest Over Triangle Block — Ayres and Traver Homes in Background

Tomorrow my daughter will drive to Omaha, a distance of one hundred thirty-five miles, in about three hours — a routine drive. Let us contrast this with an eight mile trip to Central City in 1911, by my widowed mother and her five children. It was made with a team of horses and a spring wagon.

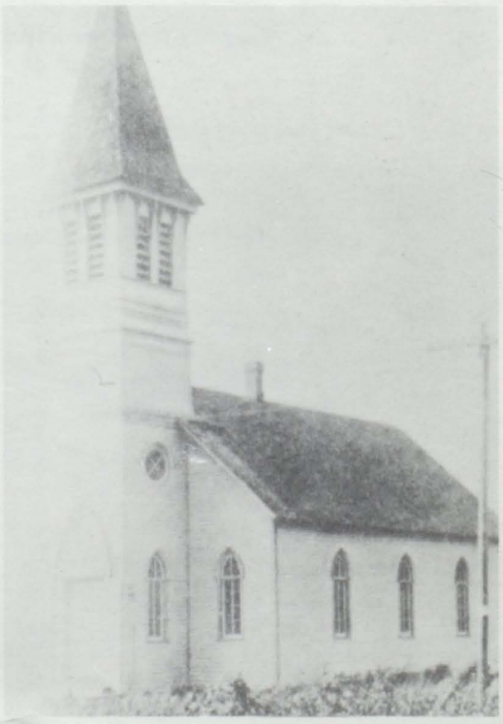
The major part of this effort was to capture the horses, not an easy chore in a thirty-five acre pasture. When this was accomplished, my older sister, with my six year old help, would get the horses in harness.

There was reason for anxiety during the journey. Our horses, not harnessed or worked on a regular basis, were nervous and frisky. The direct route to town was parallel and adjacent to the Union Pacific Railroad, and these horses were afraid of the trains and automobiles that were beginning to use the roads.

The two dogs that would not stay home alone, added nothing to my pride and poise. I doubt that our visit did anything to heighten the prestige and social status of Merrick County's Metropolitan Center. *From Diary of Ted C. Reeves*



Shopping Early Central City — **L-r** — Unknown, Miss Hathaway.



Chapman Methodist Church



Jim Anderson Livery Barn — Chapman



Schiller Hotel — Central City

Glatfelter Building — site of Farmers National Bank (1981) Central City



Cahow Barber Shop — Chapman — 1902







Early Presbyterian Church — Central City

Douglas Store — Clarks — 1920

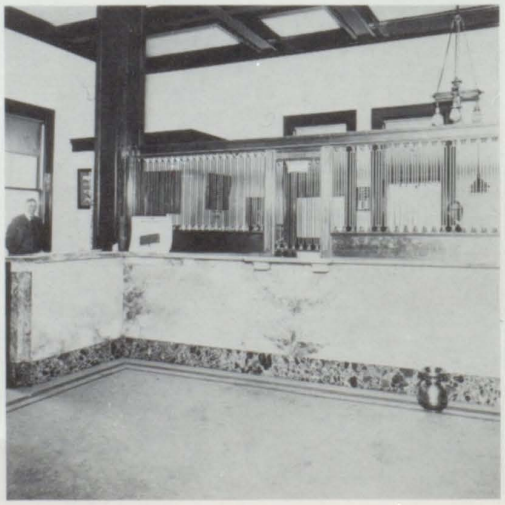


Billy Burke's Saloon — Central City



The original Union Pacific Depot and first water tower. Also shown are the West Hotel, Bill Higgins home, and railroad section crew at Clarks.

Farmers National Bank — late 1900





Central City Main Street — 1942



Run-a-way casualty near Ratcliff Hotel

Central City Triangle — 1941



McDonald-Oliver Livery Stable — 1900







First schoolhouse District #42, built in Archer — Burned 1920

Wilhelmi Garage Fire — Nov. 11, 1924
— Chapman —



Waiting for the train — Central City

Mr. Davis and Irene Davis in the creamery — 1916



Fire in Central City





Central City Fire Department — 1940's
Back, L-r — Charles Shafer, Clarence Shull, Bill Everett, Chet Ryan, Leonard Strasberg, Alfred Williams, Sam Reutlinger, George Shafer, Walter Cudney, Walter McHargue, Earl Schneiderheinz, Irv Rasmussen, Irv Hesselgesser, Arvid Stranberg, Frank McDonnell. **Front, L-r** — Del Gleason, Orville Bessey, August Schneiderheinz, Carl Schneiderheinz, Holly Wilhoft, Cecil Eaton, Jim Clarke, Gilbert Braasch, Leonard Glantz, — driver, Tom Montgomery, Egg Haddix, Clarence Fletcher, Hoppy Thomas, Cecil Wilson, Glen Rodewald, Royden Cox, Oscar Anderson.



The Great Race — New York to Paris. Central City, March 1908



Grocery store — Frank Parker, center, holding dish



American Legion Lone Tree Post No. 6 — Central City



Gathering of Spanish War Veterans — **Back, L-r** — Charles Huff, Pete Nelson, Mr. Clapp, Lincoln, Ne, Frank Bowen, Harley Robyler. **Front, L-r** — Melton McCollister, Mike Slegel, Wilbur McReynoldo.



Back, L-r — Cecil Drinkall, Dr. McAleer, unknown, J.B. Skiff, Bert Lock, Dr. Ross, unknown, Mr. Cantrell, Howard Cook, A.C. Nicholas. **Front, L-r** — Dr. Beckwith, Sten Nordstedt, George Brown, Marion Marsh, Don McHargue, Lee Coolidge, Seward Desch, Elgin White.

Celebrating Central City's 50th Anniversary.





Palmer Southside Club — 1959



W.C.T.U. Group. **Back L-r** — Mrs. Cliff Miller, Mrs. Charles Leach, Mrs. Dave Galusha, Alice Clark, (Mrs. Bloss' daughter, visiting,) Mrs. Harvey Bonness, Mrs. Earl McHargue, Mrs. M.S. McCollister, Mrs. George Hedges, Mrs. Georgia Lock, Mrs. Jack Webster, Mrs. Minnie McConnell. **Front, L-r** — Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Bloss, Mrs. Mary Garrett, Mrs. George Wolcott, Mrs. Charles Huxford, Mrs. Charles Woods, Mrs. Charles Shafer.



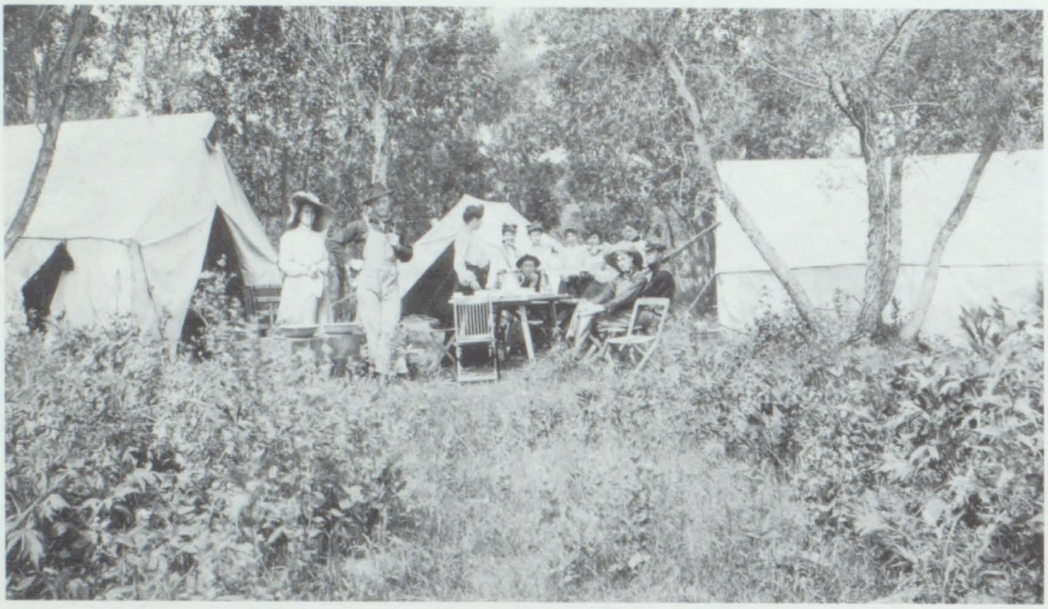
Women's Relief Corps in Costume — **Back, L-r** — Unknown, Mrs. Minnie Breckon, Margaret McCutchen, unknown, Mrs. Mary Breckon, Mrs. Keeney. **Front, L-r** — Mrs. G.W. Perry, unknown, Mrs. Carns, Mrs. A.F. McMasters, unknown, Mrs. D.Y. Clark.

Woman's Club May Breakfast at Merrick Hotel — May 6, 1946





Wee Hat Club organized in 1934 for Diamond Jubilee Celebration, August 15, 1934 — Central City. **Back, L-r** — Charles Hesselgesser, Jay Hanway, John Montgomery, Charles Eatough, Don Cohagen, unknown, Billy Desch. **Front, L-r** — Ted McCullough, unknown, Roy Scott, unknown, Mr. Baker, unknown, Alvin Hoare, Pressley French, Jimmy Hall, Mark Carraher.



Group of young people at Burkman's Lake near Palmer.



Stitzers Lake on Warm Slough in Central City



Camp Lee Estelle, G.A.R. — North Park, Central City

Sitting on the Burlington Railway Bridge south of Central City, watching the ice go out of the Platte River. **L-r** — Eva Ayres, Katherine Higginbotham,, Irma Talbert.



First Merrick County 4-H Royalty. **L-r** — Alice Wagner, Suzanne Gee, Queen Lois Vergo, King Dale Black, unknown, Bob Schlondorf.



1981 Merrick County 4-H Royalty. **L-r** — Karen Campbell, Queen Lynnett Wagner, King Eric Frauen, Kurt Frauen.



American Legion Baseball State Runner-up — Class A — 1956. **Back, L-r** — Coach Bernard McHargue, Bill Whitson, Ronnie Gillham, Gary Janky, Orvis Larsen, Gary Rodewald, Gene Pohl, Dick Monson, Tom McMahon. **Front, L-r** — Ronnie Condon, Dean Christensen, Ralph Condon, Terry McHargue, Larry Roscoe, Robert Miller, Gerald Swanson.



Good Neighbor. Central City supplying food to Grand Island residents after Tornado of June 3, 1980 — **L-r** — Kathy Curry, LeRoy Sheets, Jackie Sampson





Young men eating watermelon.





Pleasant Hill — District #15

Central City High School Basketball Team — 1914. **Back, L-r** — Mildred Burke, Miss Eads, Edna Willis. **Front, L-r** — Rose Margaret Ratcliff, Irene Austin, Nina Anderson, Eva Jensen.



Central City High School Girls Basketball — 1981. **Back, L-r** — Lynn Donelson, Kim Rassmussun, Michelle McIlnay, Coach Bob Waltman, Theresa Lanzandorf, Trish Sawyer, Lori Roscoe. **Middle, L-r** — Shelli Richardson, Darla Penney, Teri Malm, Lisa Erlandson. **Front, L-r** — Tina Reeves, Vaneta Vaughn.

"Somewhere in a schoolroom under the care of an unknown teacher is a child, who in his own time, grown to maturity, will lead the world away from war . . . It is a wise providence that no one can tell which of the two million or more children born in our country each year is to be this savior of tomorrow.

"We want the children of the people, of all the people — rich and poor, of every race and creed — to have their chance. And when through honest growth, proved merit, and wise leadership, the pilots of tomorrow take their places at the helm, we want them surrounded and supported by their fellows likewise schooled in the abiding principles of democracy."

Joy Elmer Morgan



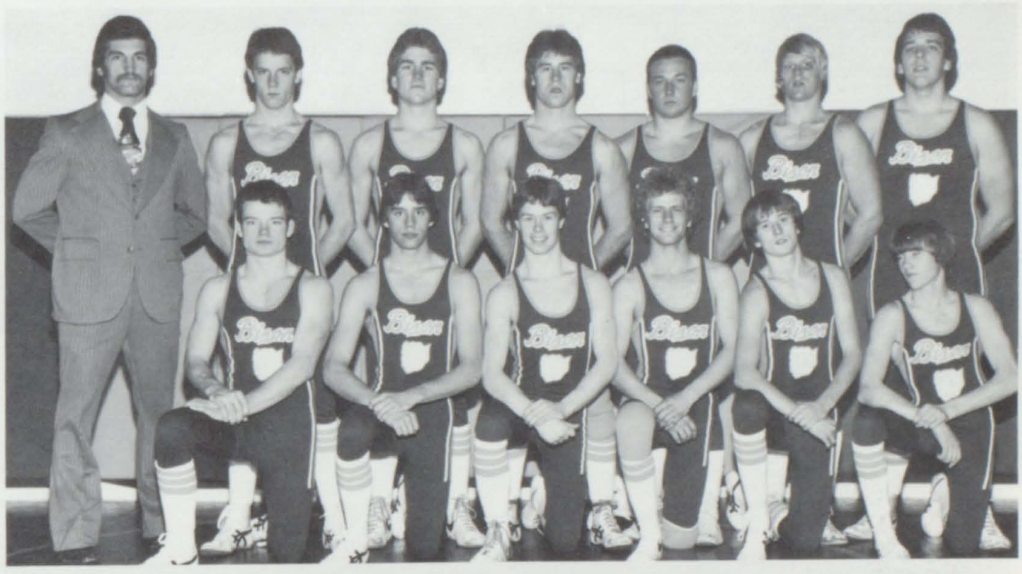
District #2 N near Chapman before 1920



Elocution Class, Nebraska Central — 1907



District #29 — 1946. **Back, L-r** — John Klingenberg, Pat McGee, Loretta Hecht, Kenneth Markworth, Joseph Nabity, Bud McGee, Helen Beth Hecht, Jane Klingenberg, Virginia Nabity, Miss Zoucha. **Front, L-r** — Anne Adele McGee, James Janovec, Eleanor Stoltenberg, Virgil Nabity, Jeanette Markworth, Angela Nabity, David Stoltenberg. John Janovec, Dennis McGee, Gary Dean Janky, Harry Husman, Alberta Husman, Bonnie Husman, Janice Stoltenberg, Joy Markworth, Donna Lee Cordes, Richard Nabity.



Central City High School Wrestling Team — State Runner-up — 1981. **Back, L-r** — Coach Gary Maresh, Russ Johnson, Dale Broekemeier, Dave Lewis, Scott Smith, Steve Schuller, Paul Petersen. **Front, L-r** — Matt Bolling (State Champion), Perry Smith, Jim Fitzgerald, Tim Harlow, Gary Scherer, John Stauffer.



Central City High School Football Team — 1913. **Back, L-r** — Winfield Donovan, Ray Clayton, Carl Lutz, Coach Percy Lloyd, Art Nolte, Clark Grieve, Lewis Mendenhall. **Middle, L-r** — Bill Stubbe, Randall Morrow, Vic Fleming, Harold Wilder, Von Lutz. **Front, L-r** — Cort Woodward, Max Clayton, Adrian Ayres.



Scudder School — District #33 — 1891. Third from left, Blanch (Scudder) Osborn



The White House



The Silver Creek 7th and 8th Grades — 1907



Joe Hayes



Central City High School Class — 1913



David and Ethel (Ogden) Magnuson — 1908



Mr. and Mrs. Perry Gage, Bruce and Raymond



Mrs. W.G. Stutsman and Mrs. Sam Ayres



Charles Mason



Isaac Traver and Peter Armour



Dodie with the chickens



Mrs. George Eoff, formerly Mable Berryman



Katie Armstrong



Wilhemina Zamzow with Family Spinning Wheel. This wheel was donated to the Merrick County Museum by her family.



George H. Ferris (Model T Sedan), with grandson, E.Lislynn Ferris



Georgia Fouts Lock with her Bridesmaids



Hattie Marie Ammerman



Society called "The Kensington" — 1899



I.S. Tyndale Residence



Prudence Baird. Teacher for many years.



Mrs. Pearl Kerr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Letcher, and mother of Mrs. Elgin White.



Charity Ellen Sutton Ogden — Dinner's Ready.



Herman and Anna Meyer



Central City Residences of Heber and T.B. Hord.



Deacon Gardner Children



Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Williams — 66th Anniversary.



Effie Barge (Hord) and Del Parker (Cox)

Out where the handclasp's a little stronger,
Out where the smile dwells a little longer,
That's where the west begins.
Out where the sun is a little brighter.
Where snows that fall are a trifle whiter,
Where bonds of home are a wee bit tighter, —
That's where the west begins.

Out where the skies are a trifle bluer,
Out where friendship's a little truer,
That's where the west begins.
Out where a fresher breeze is blowing,
Where there's laughter in every streamlet flowing,
Where there's more of reaping and less of sowing,
That's where the west begins.

Arthur Chapman



Tom Thumb's Wedding, about 1903

FAMILY TREE

GREAT-GRANDFATHER
B D
GREAT-GRANDMOTHER
B D
GREAT-GRANDFATHER
B D
GREAT-GRANDMOTHER
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GRANDFATHER
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GRANDMOTHER
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FATHER
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MOTHER
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HUSBAND
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WIFE
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CHILDREN
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FAMILY NAME

Family Stories

THE ABBOTT FAMILY

Our grandparents, Jacob W. and Elizabeth Abbott, lived in Chapman, Nebraska, in 1877, and both passed away at Chapman. They lived in the last house in the block, northwest part of town, block west of School #9.

Jacob was born in Miami County, Ohio, February 14, 1845, son of Aaron and Elizabeth (Collins) Abbott, the eldest of seven children. Grandpa's father died in the Army in March, 1863. His mother died in Merrick County in 1885; buried in Central City Cemetery.

When two years old, Mr. Abbott went with his parents to Indiana, and in 1855 moved to Iowa, where he received his education; he later engaged in farming.

August 18, 1862, Jacob enlisted in Company "C", Nineteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, serving until close of war. He received his discharge July 10, 1865, in Davenport, Iowa. He remained in Iowa and farmed. On January 1, 1873, he married Elizabeth Taylor.

In the fall of 1877, the Abbotts, with three children, came to Chapman, remaining three months, then went to Kansas where they homesteaded 160 acres. In the fall of 1880 they returned to Merrick County, living at Chapman. In 1907 Mr. Abbott purchased a farm west of Chapman. For several years he operated a threshing machine, and was indirectly interested in meat market business. They moved into town.

Mr. and Mrs. Abbott had eleven children. Eight were born at Chapman: Mrs. Wilson (Ida) Bishop (deceased), Allan (deceased) farmed east of town; Mrs. Doug (Kizzie) Scott, is 103 years old and living in Grand Island; Dave (deceased) moved to Lisco, Nebraska and later to Priest River, Idaho; Blanchard (deceased) moved to Broadwater, Nebraska; Mrs. Chauncey (Ina) McCormick lives in Cairo, Nebraska; John and Grace died in early years; Mrs. Ed (Juanita) Powers lives on farm at Cairo, Nebraska; Melbourn (deceased) lived with parents and worked as mail hauler for government, carrying mail bags to and from trains to post office.

Our father, Platte (deceased), had four children: Platte, Jr., and Arnold (both deceased), Alma and Orville living in Grand Island.

Platte married Marie Stratman from Lockwood, farming there and later moving to Central City and Chapman. After farming at Chapman, they later moved into town and purchased the Fairmont Cream Station from Earl Cavenger, located in the I00F Hall. Daddy ran the cream station until health prevented him from carrying on the business. He passed away June 4, 1928.

In 1949, we moved to Grand Island, where Alma, Orville and Arnold were working for the Union Pacific Railroad Co. Our mother passed away March 7, 1977. Brother Platte passed away September 14, 1964, and Arnold on March 18, 1977.

Uncle Herman Taylor, brother to Grandma Abbott, lived in Chapman for several years.

Grandpa and Grandma Abbott were among the early settlers of Merrick County and had passed through all the hardships and discouragements incidental to frontier life, including the 1888 blizzard. *Submitted by Alma and Orville Abbott*

WILLIAM ABEL

William Abel, my great-grandfather, was born on February 26, 1826. He was the son of Lyman and Sally Abel. He was married to Esther Stanley, on September 27, 1853, in Damascus, Ohio, at the Quaker Meeting Hall. A copy of their original marriage certificate has been given to the Merrick County Historical Museum. Esther was the daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Stanley. They spent the first year of their married life in Leeds County, Johnstown District Canada West. Their intense desire for a better life brought them to Benton County, Iowa, in 1854. They lived in that area until 1879, when they moved to a farm southwest of Clarks, Nebraska. This farm is located 1 mile south of the old District 25 schoolhouse, and is now farmed by Clark Williams. It took them 2 weeks to travel and visit some relatives before they arrived at Council Bluffs, Iowa. From there it took them 9 days to make it on to Clarks, Nebraska. My great-grandfather said, "I spent $150.00 just for lumber for the new house." The land was all virgin prairie at that time, and he broke fifteen acres of sod, and planted it to wheat that first year, the fall of 1879.

Their marriage was blessed with 7 children: Mary Abel (Garrett), Sarah Abel (Shively), Martha Abel (Bethea), Hannah Abel (Myers), Esther Abel (Stone), Turner Abel and Ben Abel.

The great courage and foresight that brought these hardy pioneer people west is best shown today in how well the country has been developed in just a little over a hundred years, and especially in the quality of people living here today. My great-grandfather passed away on December 17, 1907. My great-grandmother passed away on May 23, 1910. They are buried at the cemetery at Pierce Chapel. *Submitted by Stewart Abel*

TURNER L. ABEL

Turner L. Abel, my grandfather, was born in Benton County, Iowa, on December 24, 1865, and was married to Lizzie B. Votaw in Oskaloosa, Iowa, on February 22, 1888. They purchased the 360-acre farm, now occupied by Eldon Dubas in 1896 for $12.00 per acre. They did leave this farm for two years in the early 1900's and moved to Big Springs, Nebraska. They tried wheat farming for two years, and then moved back to their original farm. They lived there until moving into Central City. Turner Abel was a Quaker minister, and at one time was preaching in five churches: one in Clarks, one in Central City, one in Palmer, one about ½ mile east of the country cemetery that is northeast of Clarks, and one just across the county line into Nance County. My grandmother has told me of many times when they had no money in the house at all, and the only food that they had was whatever would be brought in by the parishoners.

They would sacrifice personal wants all of the year so that grandfather could go to the yearly Quaker meeting, usually held in Iowa. Turner used his influence to interest many people to come to Nebraska. He loved Merrick County and recruited many people to move here from other parts of Nebraska. One of the families that he recruited for Merrick County was the Cowgill family from Saline County. They settled on a farm northeast of Clarks. There will be a bit more on the Cowgills in Generation No. 4. My grandfather was one of the men who helped start the Quaker college: Nebraska Central College that is today the Nebraska Christian High School. Many of you who read this will have memories of Nebraska Central College. The records for Nebraska Central have been moved to William Penn College, at Oskaloosa, Iowa.

My grandfather was another of those hardy people who, although living through some very hard times, always managed to hold onto his land, as he believed that land in Merrick County would become very valuable in the future.

My grandmother, who was born on November 2, 1868, making her only three years younger than my grandfather, lived from the time of his death in the flu epidemic in 1917 until her death in 1958 as a widow. She took in boarders for many years and some of you readers, especially Egg Haddix, will remember boarding at Grandma Abels. She supplemented this meager income by renting rooms, and baking literally thousands of pies that she sold for 25¢ and 35¢ to the restaurants in Central City.

Their marriage was blessed with four children: Stella Abel, April 6, 1891, died at age 6 months; Harvey D. Abel, March 30, 1897; Leonard L. Abel, January 21,1902, died of pneumonia on January 24, 1920; Esther Abel, March 27, 1906, married Stone.

My grandfather passed away on April 29, 1917. My grandmother passed away on November 19, 1958. My grandparents are buried at the cemetery at Pierce Chapel. *Submitted by Stewart Abel*

HARVEY D. ABEL

Harvey D. Abel was my father, having been born at Central City, Nebraska, on the family farm on March 30, 1897. He passed away at Central City, Nebraska, on November 26, 1963. He met a cute little Swedish girl by the name of Edith Peterson while they were in high school. Edith was born on the family farm northeast of Marquette, Nebraska, on April 10, 1897. She was the daughter of Nels and Jennie Nicholson Peterson. They were married at Central City, Nebraska, on October 3, 1917. She passed away on December 9, 1961, at Central City, Nebraska. They lived on the family farm from 1917 until the spring of 1945, when they moved into Central City. My father went to work for a seed corn company at that time, and continued this up until his retirement in May of 1963.

My parents were trying to raise and educate a family back at the worst of the drought and depression. I can remember how hard it was for them to be able to borrow enough money in 1937 to put down an irrigation well: It is still being used today. It is well to mention that there has never been a crop failure on that irrigated land since then.

The true need for irrigation, and how it has changed the standard of living and thus the self-respect of people, can hardly be understood unless you have seen the combination of stock market crash, the bank closings, the bread lines, and the drought years of 1934 and 1936. It was truly a time to test the strength of many people; and thousands of midwestern farmers took off for California at that time.

My father, my brother, and I helped Julius Zamzow, who worked for Ross, Cowgill & Hart, sand-bucket that well into the ground about 40 feet.

It was most interesting to see Merrick County start to use hybrid corn. My father experimented with various kinds and amounts of commercial fertilizer to help increase corn yields. I remember when the usage of 40 lbs. of actual N was a common amount, and just look at it today.

My father was one of the men who thought that electricity on the farm would be a good idea, so he carried a petition around the neighborhood to try and create some interest in this project. He was always amazed at the almost violent reaction of some people who objected to the $3.50 minimum charge for 50 KWH's. Everyone who goes back into their memories will think about different events. I believe that my parents enjoyed their work in the Masonic Lodge and the Eastern Star as much as anything. I believe that my mother enjoyed her year as The Grand Guardian of Job's Daughters as much as any event of her life.

My father served on schoolboard, township board, and the ration board during World War II.

There were four children born of this marriage, and we were all born on the family farm, and were delivered by Dr. Benton. Geraldine Abel, 6-21-18, (Davis) Raytown, Missouri, Registered Nurse; Warren Abel, 10-12-21, married Janice Layton, manager of Safeway Store in C.C.; Stewart Abel, 10-6-24, married Zetha Norris, Insurance Salesman; Marilyn Abel, 2-9-30, Rolling Hills Estates,

California, (Nicholson) Manager and Owner of Plant and Flower Shop.

My parents are buried at the cemetery in Central City, Nebraska. *Submitted by Stewart Abel*

STEWART L. ABEL

I am Stewart L. Abel, born on October 6, 1924, at Central City, Nebraska. I went to District #50 and graduated from Central City High School in 1941. I really did not have any great interest in becoming a dentist, but there was a pretty dark-haired little girl from Polk County that was working for Dr. Allen S[illegible]t, and you would be surprised how many times I needed to go to the dentist during 1943 and 1944. She was the daughter of C.E. Norris and Stella Cowgill Norris. We were married on November 5, 1944. I farmed for myself until 1960, when we moved to Columbus, Nebraska and I entered into the life insurance business. It is a very challenging and rewarding profession, not yet in the financial aspect of the business, but one of true self-satisfaction of helping others. When I was a child growing up on the farm, most everyone was poor, but we did have the security of every neighbor helping in time of need. The road that went past my folk's farm place had never been graded, the proverbial "Cow Trail". I remember the old brick paving in the towns — the concrete Hiway U.S. 30 when it was constructed.

My first school teacher was Marie Booth from Clarks, Nebraska. I have so many memories of District #50 that I feel that I could almost write a book about the 40 kids going to country school at that time. Some of the families were: Jennings, Lyons, Cranes, Sims, Madison, Butts, McConnells, Hurings, Ellers, Packers, Zichek, and Houston. I remember my very first Christmas Program at District #50 Miss Booth let me give the welcome to everyone. I recall the unrest in our community when District #50 raised their teacher's salary to the grand sum of $35.00 per month.

One other memory of District #50 was the many people who were most unhappy when we put a pump inside the schoolhouse, and you can imagine what happened when we put inside plumbing in that building for the kids to use.

My father attended District #50, and later served on the board there. My 2 sisters, my brother, and I all attended District #50, and I served on the board there from 1948 until 1960.

My wife, Zetha, and I still have 160 acres of the original 360 purchased by Turner Abel in 1896. We hope to be able to build a house on the farm in the not-too-distant future. We started 5 years ago getting the trees started that we wanted for a windbreak for our homestead. We have planted many shrubs, shade trees, and of course a grain bin.

The economics of the 1930's were different than today. I remember working many days from daylight until after dark for $1.00 per day. I worked for John Hannappel, Lon Thomas, and Roy Clement. It was quite a thrill when wages went to $2.00 per day, and then for a moment, look at today.

It would be nice if each generation would keep a record of economics, droughts, hot and cold, wet and dry, good crops, and the bad ones, remembering that human problems come and go, but events in history can repeat themselves. I believe the land must be preserved for the next generation to use, and it will become very valuable as we look to the future.

Our roots are very deep in our farm in Merrick County, and it is my hope and desire that the vision that William Abel had over 100 years ago, will be carried on by the future generations.

My wife and I have some circumstances that we think are most unusual. Turner Abel, the preacher, recruited many families to move to Merrick County. One of these families was the Cowgill family from Saline County. Stella Cowgill was one of that family, and as a young single girl in 1897, she helped my grandmother take care of my father, Harvey Abel, when he was born. Stella Cowgill was to become the mother of my wife, Zetha. Also, my father's Aunt Hannah Abel Myers married Harrison Myers, and Harrison Myers was an uncle to C.E. Norris who was my wife's father. *Submitted by Stewart Abel*

STEWART ABEL SONS

The 5th Generation of Abels coming from Merrick County started on July 19, 1946, with the birth of our oldest son Roger. He attended District #50 school for his 8 grades of elementary schooling, and graduated from Columbus High School, and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He also met a cute little Swedish girl at the University, and they were married on November 9, 1974. They have two little girls: Sarah Beth Abel born on May 14, 1977, and Christina Ann Abel, born on January 11, 1981. Thus, the Sarah Abel who married William Shively has a namesake. Roger and Vicki Hakanson Abel live near Elkhorn, Nebraska.

Our second son, Danny was born on August 12, 1949, and also attended District #50 school. Danny was married to Jenny Kniefel on January 22, 1971, but is now divorced. Danny is living in Lincoln, Nebraska. Our youngest son, Gary, was born on October 23, 1954. He lived with us on the family farm until 1960, but he did not attend the District #50 school. He is now working for General Electric Corporation and living in North Hollywood, California.

The family story started in Merrick County in 1879 when William and Esther Abel came to Clarks and lived in the same house that my wife and I lived in back in 1944 when we first got married. These courageous people shared a dream for a better future, and where it will end, only the Good Lord knows for sure, but herein is a little bot of information about the past that I hope will be helpful to the future generations. *Submitted by Stewart Abel*

ADAMS

My great-grandfather, John Downing Adams, was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, June 28, 1842, to David and Matilda (Kitchell) Adams. He was the seventh of nine children, four boys and five girls. About 1850, most of the family moved to Bureau County, Illinois, where he grew to manhood.

John enrolled in the Civil War February 20, 1865, as a private in Company H, 151st regiment of Illinois infantry. He took part in the fight at Kingston, Georgia, and was wounded in the left hip with a spent cannon ball. He was discharged at Columbus, Georgia, January 24, 1866.

He returned to Illinois and married Mary Elizabeth Lafferty, daughter of Wesley and Harriet Lafferty, October 27,1867. John and Mary Adams lived in Bureau County, Illinois, and their first three children, Emma Matilda, Ocotber 22, 1868, Alcinda Susan, February 22, 1870, and Howard, May 18, 1872, were born there. In 1872 he, with three of his brothers, Robert, William, and George, and perhaps one sister, Mrs. Jane Moyer migrated to Merrick County, Nebraska. They came in a covered wagon, arriving in November. It is said their first home was a dugout, as they arrived too late to get a soddy built.

Their daughter, Alcinda Susan, died in 1872, at the age of two. While her mother was chasing Indians out of the corn field she fell into a pot of hot water and was scalded. She lived about two weeks, being kept wrapped in wool blankets, but then died. She was buried out on the prairie.

John settled on property he later homesteaded. He first built a 17x18 ft. log house, a 12x14 ft. log stable, a 10x12 ft. log granary, a shed, a corral, and dug a well. He was a good carpenter and also farmed, raising wheat, oats, corn and barley. He liked to fish, and also ran a ferry on the Loup River before the bridge was built.

Six more children were born in Nebraska: Clarance Ethrud, June 3, 1875, Charles Marion, January 8, 1877, William Franklin, February 19, 1879, Florence Berl, December 2, 1880, Anna Jane, January 23, 1883, and Fred Allan, January 5, 1885.

William Franklin married and spent some time in Illinois and, although he died in Palmer, Nebraska, he is buried in Malden, Illinois. The rest of the children all married, lived, and died in Nebraska, and all but Charles are buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Palmer along with their parents. Charles is buried in Kimball, Nebraska.

John's parents stayed in Illinois, and his father passed away March 31, 1856. His mother passed away April 25, 1874. Both are buried in the Mason Cemetery in Dover, Bureau County, Illinois.

My grandmother, Emma Matilda, married Allen Wilson Gee, February 10, 1886. They were the parents of ten children. More on their family can be found in the Gee history.

Howard married Bessie Elizabeth Rankin, May 16, 1903, in Fairplay, Colorado, but they moved back to Nebraska and had four children.

Clarance Ethrud married Flossie Eliott, November 6, 1902. They were the parents of six children.

Charles Marion married Martha James, April 15, 1903. They had one daughter who, along with her mother and her own daughter, were killed in an explosion and fire in 1943.

William Franklin married Jessie Amanda Stewart, November 28, 1901, in Princetonn, Bureau County, Illinois. They were the parents of six children, most of whom were born in Illinois before they returned to Nebraska.

Florence Berl married George Maxcimus Charron, October 20, 1898. They were the parents of six children. Their oldest daughter, Mrs. Ruth Robbins, now lives in St Paul, Nebraska.

Anna Jane married Byron Beryl Dooley, January 26, 1901. They were the parents of eight children.

Fred Allan, married Clara May Starkey, February 29, 1911. They were the parents of three children. Their oldest daughter, Mrs. Violet Vardaman, now lives in St. Paul, Nebraska.

Mary Elizabeth Adams died in Palmer, December 17, 1915. She is buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Palmer. She was a faithful member of the Christian Church there, having joined February 27, 1894.

John Downing Adams died in Palmer June 9, 1922. He is also buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery. *Submitted by Jacquelyn Glavinick*

J.D. ADAMS SIBLINGS

In 1872, John Downing Adams and his family, along with three of his brothers, Robert William, and George, came west from Illinois and settled in Merrick County, Nebraska. It is not known whether his sister, Jane Adams Moyer, came to Nebraska with her brothers or if she came later. Following are brief sketches of John's brothers and sister:

Robert Adams married Amanda Jane Sill, February 7, 1865, in Princeton, Bureau County, Illinois. Four children were born in Illinois: Nora Irene, December 9, 1865, Howard Grant, January 26, 1868, Nellie Lincoln, November 19, 1869 and Birdie Catherine, July 31, 1871 (and she died Aug. 3, 1872.) Five more children were born after moving to Nebraska; Mary Evelyn, March 19, 1873, Nannie Louella, May 15, 1876, Alvin Ward, December 7, 1878, Fina Blanche, November 11, 1880 and Elmer Statten, May 25, 1885.

Nora Irene married Marshall Prutsman, Howard Grant married Cora Mae Reece, Nellie Lincoln, married Oscar Burton, Mary Evelyn married Franklin Wymer, Nannie Louella married Reuben Walcott, Alvin Ward married Sue Benniger, Fina Blanche married Melvin Grimes and after his death she married William Moore. Elmer Statten married Emma Finch.

Of Robert and Amands's descendants some are in California, Idaho, Wyoming and some still in Nebraska. Robert died August 20, 1897 and Amanda Jane died July 4, 1925.

William Adams married Amanda Cosner. They were the parents of at least three children; George, Lillie, and Nettie, who married Arthur A. Truil. Not much more is known about this family.

George Adams married Eliza Engart. They were the parents of at least five children: Cora M. married James Gugin, Laura A. married Jerome Peck, Mabel J. married Walter Campbell, Harrie E. married Esther Glouse, and Jessie R. married Moses M. Cresse. Nothing further is known about this family.

Jane Adams married Abraham Moyer, February 17, 1848, in Clermont County, Ohio. They were the parents of six children: David Allen, March 19, 1949, and Mary Lee, November 26, 1852, both born in Ohio, Harriet Ellen, about 1857 in Illinois and later died in Iowa, John Franklin, July 27, 1861 in Bureau County, Illinois, Amanda, February 1864, and Matilda J., November 1, 1866, both born in

Iowa. Jane Moyer died in Nebraska December 14, 1890, and is buried in Burke Cemetery near Archer. Abraham Moyer died December 12, 1913, and is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Palmer. They have one granddaughter, Mrs. Goldie Stearman, now living in Palmer. *Submitted by Jacquelyn Glavinick*

ROBERT ADAMS

Robert Adams, son of David and Matilda Adams, was born in Ohio, the fourth in a family of nine children. He received his education mainly in Ohio schools, later going with his parents to Bureau County, Illinois. Mr. Adams was united in marriage to Amanda J. Sill of Pennsylvania, and later of Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Adams, with three small children, came to Nebraska in a covered wagon, camping out along the way. They homesteaded 160 acres, as well as paying a good-sized sum, for land in 14-15-7. A rather wide strip of land on the north side of this section was Pawnee Reservation. Out of fear, the Adams granted the Indians their every wish, be it chickens or what-have-you.

A small log house, one room above and one below, was their home for seven years. Upon returning from Fullerton one day, they saw their home in flames. Curtains used for room dividers upstairs were blown about the stove pipe, causing the loss. A frame house was then built.

Believing in progress, he helped to organize the first church in this locality and also provided three acres on which a school house was built. (The school building on the Merrick County Fair grounds came from this place.) When the terrible blizzard hit in April, Mr. Adams went to the school house and carrying the smallest child, taking the hand of the next in size, and making a continuous chain of some twenty or more with the teacher last, led all to their home until the blizzard subsided.

The three years following the blizzard, grasshoppers destroyed nearly all of their crops. They would even eat the clothes on the clothes line.

Probably one of their most valuable possessions in that day was a team and wagon. Mr. Adams was crossing the river one day when the wagon began going down. His only thought was to save his team. He took a knife from his pocket to cut the hame string loose to free them, and it is not known for sure if he dropped the knife or the blade came unriveted, but he lost all.

Corn meal was their main sustenance in one form or another. They would have hot corn meal mush for breakfast, and slice and fry the cold mush for their other meals. Some, if not all, of the girls never had a doll with the exception of one made from corn husks.

They had nine children: Nora, wife of Marshall Prutsman; Howard G.; Nellie, wife of O.E. Burton; Birdie, deceased in infancy; Eva, (Mary Evelyn) wife of F.E. Wymer; Luella, wife of R.W. Wolcott; Alvin; Blanche, wife of G.M. Grimes and after his death Will Moore; and Elmer S.

Mrs. Adams continued on the farm eight years after the death of her husband, moving then to Central City where she built a nice home that is still in existence.

The Nebraska Pioneer Farm Award for a continued ownership within the family of the same farm for 100 years or more, recognizing the Robert Adams Homestead, was given to a granddaughter, Onilee Wymer Newlon, the present owner.

(A grandson-in-law of the Adams', in tracing the family tree, had no doubt that Robert Adams was a descendant of the two presidents, John and John Quincy Adams.) *Submitted by Onilee Wymer Newlon*

HEINRICH AHRENS FAMILY

Heinrich Christopher Ahrens was born December 5, 1839, at Hanover, Germany. He married Magdalena Dierks on November 19, 1868, at Liverpool, England, enroute to the United States. She was born on November 18, 1847, in Holstein, Germany. They settled near Yorkville, Illinois where they lived for three years before traveling by horses to Shelby County, Missouri, where they remained through the winter. This trip took three weeks. In February of 1872 they homesteaded in Lake Township, Hall County, Nebraska.

Their children were Alida Christine, who later married Frank Niemoth and lived in Merrick County; Helene, who died at the age of two; Alex, married to Sophine Lorenzen; and Henry C., married to Maria W. Hintz, who was born in Germany and was the only member of her family to come to the United States.



Magdalena Ahrens

Heinrich Ahrens had been a valet for wealthy employers before coming to America. After settling in Hall County, he worked for a dollar a day digging cellars in Grand Island. He was killed by a neighbor's team of runaway horses on June 9, 1885, and Magdalena alone raised the children, then very young. Especially feared by her were prairie fires because of the seven miles distance from Grand Island and no close neighbors.

Magdalena returned to Germany for a visit in 1907, then returned to Hall County, moving into Grand Island. By this time she, with the help of her sons, had accumulated several farms. She passed away in Grand Island on April 18, 1927, at the age of 79. Heinrich and Magdalena and infant daughter are buried in the Wiegert Cemetery.

It is noted in history books that Heinrich Christopher Ahrens owned the first binder in the area. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

WILLIAM ALEXANDER FAMILY

William Bruce Alexander and Daisy Florence Rose were married December 20, 1905, in Tazwell County and settled on a farm near Lilly, Illinois. A son, William Earl, was born June 9, 1907, but died September 1, 1907, and was buried at Minier, Illinois. On January 1, 1908, Daisy died, a young wife of 21. She was buried at Minier also.

William remained on the farm until 1909. He left Illinois for Omaha, Nebraska, where his parents lived, remained there temporarily, then moved to the Gardiner-Silver Creek area, where he farmed.

In 1910, he married Emma Vonder Lieth in Merrick County. Five children were born, Lelon Edward, February 9, 1912, Herman William, May 30, 1913, at Duncan, Ray Eugene and Ruby Ellen, twins, April 18, 1916, in Omaha. On January 11, 1919, after the death of his father, Ivan Bruce was born at his grandparents' east of Silver Creek on the Old Mill Race Farm.

After their marriage, William and Emma lived in Alda where he worked for the Union Pacific Railroad. After a short time he was transferred to Duncan. In 1914, the Alexanders moved to Binney Street in Omaha. William, known as "Bill", worked for Itens Biscuit Company in the baking department. In 1918, the family moved to the Sam Taylor farm in Gardiner, now owned by Jim Edmison, to resume farming.

Bill's health failed and soon he was admitted to the hospital at Excelsor Springs, Missouri. He died in his home in Gardiner on August 31, 1918, age 33.

After the loss of her husband, Emma and the children moved in with her sister, Mrs. Margaret Mason, on a farm north of Gardiner, for nearly two years. Some of the children attended Gardiner School, District #8. In 1921, they moved to Duncan where the children attended the Public High School. It was the sixth of April, 1936, when Emma died enroute home by auto with her family after visiting her sister, Mrs. Mason, west of Silver Creek. Emma was 51.

Ivan Bruce, "Pete", was graduated with the class of 1940 at Silver Creek High. Pete had polio and spent two years in treatment in Lincoln. At his death on March 5, 1948, he was parts man and bookkeeper with the Jericki Implement.

Lelon married Mildred Boss in Silver Creek, October 11, 1941, and now resides in Silver Creek in retirement from the Union Pacific Railroad.

Herman married Leona Novicki November 16, 1935, in Omaha. Their children are Renee, Timothy and Lynnette. He is retired from the Union Pacific Railroad. They live in Fremont.

Ray married Bernice Boss December 1, 1939. They had Frederick, Branda and Betty Lou. Bernice died in Columbus on August 4, 1968. Ray's second marriage was to Elizabeth Czarnick July 19, 1969. He is employed with Zimmatic Irrigation at Newman Grove. They live in Genoa.

Ruby married March Warner March 24, 1945, at O'Neill, Nebraska. March died August 11, 1969. Ruby lives at Chambers and works at O'Neill. *Submitted by Lelon Alexander*

AXEL E. ANDERSON FAMILY

Axel E. Anderson was born in Edsbergh Sweden March 23, 1865. He confessed his faith in Christ and joined the Lutheran Church when he was fifteen years old. August 18, 1882 at sixteen years of age he came to the United States and settled in Tabor, Iowa with his brothers and sisters who had come before. His parents came later.

March 23, 1888 he married Miss Clara Grahn in Stanton, Iowa and in 1889 they moved to Nebraska settling on a farm in Polk County. In 1895 they moved to a farm in Hamilton County where they lived eight years. They had four daughters: Aleda, Ina, Edith and Ruth.

In 1902 they purchased a farm in Merrick County one mile north and one mile east of Palmer, Nebraska where they spent the rest of their lives.



Mr. and Mrs. Axel E. Anderson
L-r — Ruth, Edith, Aleda and Ina.

Mr. Anderson was active in public life. He served four years as County Supervisor of Loup and Prairie Creek townships. He had read much about law and was a great help at school board meetings and other meetings and was missed when he was unable to attend. They were all members of the First Church of Christ in Palmer.

The winter of 1920 Mr. Anderson had the flu from which he never recovered and was an invalid until his death July 7, 1928 at the age of 63 years. He was cared for in their home by his wife, with the assistance of their family.

Their daughters all married and they were: Mrs. Ivan (Aleda) Swadley, Mrs. Ray (Ina) Shull, Mrs. Ross (Edith) Cox and Mrs. Thure (Ruth) Anderson. There were 12 grandchildren three of which, Cameron, Taylor and Jean Cox lived in their home after their Dad passed away in 1923.

I do not recall which year Palmer first had electricity but in the year 1927 there were no lines out in the country, so a group of farmers northeast of town decided to build their own line. It was the Mary O'Hern family, Truman Gee's, Janssen Brothers, Frank Dankert's and the Anderson's. This made the line about 2¼ miles. With the help of an electrician, the homes were wired and they bought their electricity by contract from the town of Palmer. A while later a short line was built east of town and then it was several years before the REA came through so all the farmers could have electricity. However, a few farmers had installed individual light plants, but understood they were quite expensive. After Mr. Anderson passed away in July 1928, and Mrs. Anderson in February 1930, Thure and Ruth bought the home farm and continued living there until 1962 when they purchased a home in Palmer and retired.

At this time Ruth had lived on the same farm almost 58 years and has now lived in Merrick County over 77 years. *Submitted by Ruth E. Anderson*

DAVID & DORA ANDERSON

Dora Breyer, the third of ten children born to William and Dorthea Niedfelt Breyer, was born in West Salem, Wisconsin, on October 31, 1887. When she was three years old, the family moved to a farm at Ceresco, Nebraska.

David Anderson, the oldest of four children born to Andrew and Betty Olson Anderson, was born at Mead, Nebraska, on September 18, 1891. Later, the family moved to a farm across the road from the Breyer farm at Ceresco. David and Dora attended different grade schools but became good friends, and on February 18, 1914, they were married at Wahoo, Nebraska. In 1911, David's father purchased 160 acres of land in Merrick County from the T.B. Hord Land and Cattle Company for $10,400. This was to be David and Dora's new home. They came to Clarks by train. After unloading their wagon, buggy, some household furnishings, horses and cattle, they drove west for five miles until they crossed Silver Creek and came to the place David's father had described as having a small house, barn, and tall cottonwood trees. That first night they found the house to be already well occupied by mice and bed bugs. They lived on this place all their married life.



Mr. and Mrs. David Anderson

In 1915, David and Dora's only child, Myrtle, was born. She attended school at District #21 where her father was school board treasurer for many years. She graduated from Clarks High School in 1934.

In 1916, the family purchased their first Ford touring car.

It was a happy time for the family when they moved into their new house in 1918.

David's main occupation was farming, feeding cattle, and raising hogs. During each harvest season, he tended the separator of the large steam engine thrashing rig in his community. It was an exciting day when we heard the steam whistle and saw the big engine, separator, and water wagon pull into the yard. This reminded the housewife there was a lot of bread to bake, pies to make, and lots of cooking to be done, using the wood range. Two or more neighbor ladies helped prepare the dinner and lunch for the 18 to 20 hungry workers.

David enjoyed baseball games, hunting, and fishing. There was always a large garden and flowers to tend. Dora raised chickens, ducks and geese. She made many feather pillows and feather ticks. She enjoyed sewing, embroidery, crocheting, and other hobbies. She was a charter member of the C.S.C. (Community Sewing Circle) a Nebraska federated club which was organized in 1916. She was a member until the club disbanded after 52 years of service to the community.

Their daughter, Myrtle, and Hans Holtorf were married at the farm home on February 18, 1939, the Silver Wedding Anniversary of David and Dora.

In February 1964, David and Dora and Hans and Myrtle celebrated their 50th and 25th Anniversaries with an open house at the Grace Lutheran Church in Central City.

David and Dora have six grandchildren, and in 1981 there are eighteen great-grandchildren.

On February 1, 1965, David died, leaving Dora alone on the farm for seven years. Dora died in June of 1975, after being in a care home for three years. Their granddaughter, Marilyn and Edward Kyes and family took over the farming operation in 1973. *Submitted by Myrtle Holtorf*

THURE W. ANDERSON FAMILY

Thure William Anderson was born June 23, 1891 in Edsberg, Forsamling-Ore-bro-Lan, Sweden to Axel and Anna Josephine Anderson. He came to the United States with his parents and one older brother in April 1892, when he was nine months old.

He spent most of his young life in Montgomery County, Iowa where he received his education. At the age of 15 years he was confirmed into the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Red Oak, Iowa.

In March of 1917 he came to Palmer, Nebraska. (Merrick County) where he was employed by Axel E. Anderson.

On June 26, 1918, he entered the Service in the Army at Red Oak, Iowa and trained at Camp Dodge, Iowa. He went overseas with the 313th Engineers, 88th Division and served on four active fronts in France.

He was discharged June 16, 1919 and again came to Palmer, Nebraska. He transferred his church membership to the First Church of Christ at Palmer.

He helped organize the Burton-Beyer Post #120 at Palmer in the State Department of the American Legion. He served as Post Adjutant 25 years and the Post honored him and presented him a Gold Life Membership Card. At that time there were just two presented in the county. He served as Merrick County Commander — eight years, District 6th Adjutant — two years, 6th District Vice-Commander — two years. He served as a member of the Merrick County Veterans Service Committee from the time it was organized after World War I. This year, 1980, he was presented a Diamond Jubilee Certificate for 63 years as a member of the American Legion. He is a member of World War I Barracks, Merrick County.

He served on the Farm Program Committee from 1934 through 1958 and was on the ASCS County Committee eighteen years. He served forty years on the Rose Hill Cemetery Board and forty years on the Merrick County Fair Board. He was a Church Deacon for several years in the Church of Christ, Palmer of which he is a member.

Thure and Ruth Anderson were married September 26, 1923 at Council Bluffs, Iowa. They had two daughters — Maxine Mae and Clara Ann. Clara



Mr. and Mrs. Thure W. Anderson

Ann passed away March 9th, 1939 before her ninth birthday. After Ruth's father (Axel E. Anderson) passed away in July, 1928 and her mother in February 1930, they bought her parents home farm and continued living there until 1962 when they retired and purchased a home in Palmer. Maxine and Donald Grace of Palmer were married October 15, 1950. In 1951 Donald entered the service and served in the Korean War. Donald and Maxine moved to Miller, South Dakota in 1953 where Donald farms. They have two children: Curtis Dale and Kelly Ann and two grandchildren, Dustin and Shelby. *Submitted by Mrs. Thure W. Anderson*

ANTRIM — SHEPHERD

The farmstead about one half mile east of Havens where I was born and spent most of my youth and early adulthood is gone. The house my grandfather built in 1908, all the other buildings and trees have been removed to enable farm fields to have uninterrupted corn rows irrigated by a pivot sprinkler.

But all our yesterdays are just memories anyhow and my recollections of our family life there are as fresh as today's sunrise. They are as alive in my mind as they were in reality when my sister, Opal, and I romped around the yard with Rover while the milk was being separated before we took the skim milk back to the barn to feed the "bucket" calves. In summer we carried what seemed like endless pails of water to the large flock of chickens our mother raised. In spring she not only "set" a lot of hens but she sold many eggs for hatching to people who liked the large meaty Buff Orpingtons.

Our lives were to be restricted by the arthritis which totally disabled our father, forcing him into inactivity before middle age. But we made the best of it even during the draught of the "Thirties" when we operated a store in Havens.

Dad was Chas. F., the eldest son of John and Carrie (Cool) Shepherd, and Mom was Etta V., the only daughter of G.E. (Ed) and Linnie (Petty John) Antrim. Their marriage joined two pioneer Merrick County families with a long friendship. Solomon Shepherd, a native of Kentucky and a Civil War veteran, came first to Platte County where his wife, the former Rachel Green, died in 1895 and was buried in Jackson Cemetery at Duncan. John was one of their four children. He was a native of Iowa, as was Chas. who came to Silver Creek to help care for his grandfather, Solomon, courted and married my mother, a close friend of his cousin, Rose, daughter of Henry Clay Shepherd.

Grandpa Antrim had come to Merrick County in the 1870's but returned to Iowa for about ten years before coming back to begin married life with my grandmother near Silver Creek. Mom was born on

the farm south of Highway 30 now owned by Ed Dittmer.

My parents spent their first three years together in Cass County, Iowa, then came to the Havens community.

After graduation from Silver Creek High School in 1937, I married Kenneth M. Colby in 1939. He was the third child of George M. and Jessie (Brown) Colby and a native of York County. He had graduated from Clarks High School in 1933. It was in 1955 that we left the farm to operate a grocery store in Clarks for seven years. Kenneth died in 1962 after a long period of ill health.

I had a variety of work experiences including employment at Litzenberg Hospital and as bookkeeper at the Farmers Cooperative Association in Clarks before I married Frank K. Betts, a farmer and cattle feeder. *Submitted by Rose Betts*

LEO JOHN ARMATYS

Leo John Armatys was born June 22, 1915 to Charles Armatys and Josephine Staniec Armatys. He graduated from high school at age 16. After graduation he joined the Civilian Conservation Corp and worked in the Valentine and Niobrara area.

In 1935, he came to Central City and worked for Donald F. Sampson as an office secretary. He took a correspondence course from the McKinley Roosevelt School of Law in Chicago. He was admitted to the Nebraska Bar in November of 1939, and practiced law with Mr. Sampson.

In 1937, Leo met Dorothy Power and they began dating. Dorothy was born August 18, 1918 to John Alfred (Allie) Power and Rose Nellie Trainor Power. She grew up on a farm east of Chapman, Nebraska and received her early education at District #39, a one room school house.

She worked as an office assistant to Dr. A.A. Enos from 1940 to 1942.



Leo and Dorothy Armatys

Leo entered the army in January of 1941 for a years conscription, and was to be discharged December 8, 1941, but after the bombing of Pearl Harbor all military personel discharges were cancelled for the duration of World War II. Leo and Dorothy had planned to be married when he came home. Leo was assigned to the Judge Advocates office of the 35th Infantry Division. The 35th Infantry was transferred to San Luis Obispo, California. Dorothy went to be with him in March of 1942 and worked for Sears Roebuck Company. They were married on April 9, 1942. The 35th Division was then transferred to Los Angeles and then to Pasadena. Likewise, Sears transferred Dorothy to their stores in these cities.

Orrin Joseph was born February 18, 1943 in Pasadena. The family was fortunate to be together, except while Leo was on maneuvers in Louisiana. The succeeding posts were in Alabama and North Carolina. The 35th Division shipped overseas from North Carolina. Orrin and Dorothy drove home and rented a cabin from R.O. McNurlin. In 1945, they moved to a house owned by Dorothy's father.

Leo returned home in September of 1946, and resumed law practice with Mr. Sampson. Cynthia Louise was born August 15, 1947. Anthony John and Anthonette Joan were born December 18, 1948.

Leo and Dorothy then purchased the Merton Ludlow home where Bryan Lee was born October 2, 1951, and Walter Gerard on August 30, 1959. All graduated from Central City High School and attended college. Two daughters died at birth; Jennifer Marie, 1954 and Margaret Mary, 1956.

Orrin entered the army in 1965. He served as a combat Medic in Vietnam from March 1966 to March 1967.

Orrin married Ruth Schaaf, and has two children, Gregory and Jill. Cynthia married Bradford Rutledge; Anthony married Sally Biegert and has one child, Joseph. Anthonette, Bryan and Walter are unmarried.

Leo died April 27, 1975 after a lingering illness. Dorothy resides in the same home where the children were raised. She enjoys her grandchildren, golf, travel and maintaining the beautiful garden Leo envisioned and turned into reality.

Our happiest years were when the children were growing up — each unique in his own way. *Submitted by: Dorothy Armatys*

NOISE COATES ARRANTS

Noise Coates Arrants and Mary Ann Haddix were married in Bryan County, Ohio, after the Civil War. They moved to Nebraska in 1879, making their home on Prairie Creek, near Archer. Their three youngest children were born in Nebraska. Noise and Mary Arrants farmed until the railroad came to the area, at which time Noise worked with the railroad. He was section foreman at St. Paul until transferred to Ericson in 1909.

Mary and Noise were charter members of the Christian Church in Palmer, Nebraska. They, along with their daughters Mina and Sarah, are buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Palmer.

Noise and Mary Arrants had eight children: Clyde, Stephen, Sarah Jane, Mina, Hattie, SaFrona, LaZora, and Harvey. Clyde died in infancy in Ohio. Stephen married Mert Van Lear, parents of Aimee (wife of Grover Cleveland Alexander). Stephen resided in McCook, Nebraska.

Sarah Jane married William Burke at Palmer. They had two sons, Vernie and Harold. Vernie disappeared at age 11 in a pasture near Kearney, Nebraska, and was never heard from again. Harold served in the Navy in World War One, and lived at Minotte, North Dakota, with his wife Marjorie and two daughters.

Mina died at age 20 at Palmer, Nebraska.

Hattie married Robert Charles Campbell and was the mother of four children.

See the Robert Campbell story also.

SaFrona Hearst had one son, Ray, who does government work in Texas. SaFrona died in California.

LaZora married T.J. Hamilton at Holdrege, Nebraska; had one daughter, Elizabeth Fromfelter, Learned, Kansas; two sons, Maxwell in Texas; John, where-abouts unknown. LaZora died in Kansas.

Harvey married Katie Higgins, and lived in Port Orchard, Oregon, and Washington state. His daughter, Florence, married Walter Weissart. His daughter, Eve, married Earl Heacall. His son, Joe, married Jim's widow, Mary Katherine; they lived in Port Orchard, Oregon. Harvey's son, Steve, died of emphysema. Steve and Eva are buried at Kearney, Nebraska. *Submitted by Lucile Campbell Page*

ALFRED & ELIZABETH BADER

Alfred William Fredrick Bader was born August 9, 1903, the son of Fredrick William "Bill" (b. April 18, 1877-d. May 15, 1941) and Mary Amelia Loeffelbein (b. circa 1878-d. 1938) Bader. His parents were farmers and did custom farm work. By age thirteen, Alfred was doing a man's work and serving on the Home Guard force in Chapman, set up during World War I. He started farming for himself with mustangs he'd tamed to work walking plows and cultivators. When two-bottom plows became available, he plowed with two teams: leading one and driving the other. Alfred raised 250 head of hogs per year as well as fifty cows, feeding out their calves. He also raised some sheep. He and his father did road work for the county with horses. Alfred's old Case Threshing Machine is on display in the Merrick County Historical Building at the Merrick County Fair Grounds. Alfred and Reuben Fry had the first combines in the area when they became available.

March 10, 1925, Alfred married Elizabeth Louise Giesler in the Methodist Church in Chapman. The Lutheran minister from St. Paul, Rev. Harmon, officiated.

Elizabeth Louise came with her parents, Reinhard and Augusta Heitmann Geisler, from near the Rhine River in her native Germany, arriving in Chapman on her sixth birghday: May 17, 1910. Her parents were farmers. When Alfred and Elizabeth married they lived on a farm one mile south and one

AYERS

The Ayers family has no submitted story, however the family photograph is below.



Owner of Ayres Lumber and Coal Yard, Central City.
Family home — 219 E Street
Back l-r — George, Bell, Rennie, Owen. **Front l-r** — S. D. Ayres, Adrian, Nancy Brannan Ayres, and Eva.

mile east of Worms.

Through years of long, hard work, Alfred and Elizabeth have become financially very successful. During this time they assisted many people and Alfred has served on numerous town, city, county, and state boards and committees. He has also given financial assistance to Chapman Telephone Company, Chapman Co-op, Merrick Foundation, and Merrick County Soil and Water Conservation District. Alfred and Elizabeth have donated to the Lutheran Hospital Building Fund (Grand Island) as well as furnished a room in Litzenberg Memorial Hospital in Central City. They donated the building for the Community Building in Chapman, the wells at the Chapman Cemetery, the land for Bader Memorial Park south of Chapman, and the Merrick County Agricultural Building on the Merrick County Fair Grounds. They have given many interest-free donations to various organizations and individuals who would have been unable to finance their projects elsewhere.



Alfred and Elizabeth Bader

(Bader Park is listed in Chapman information, Bader Villa in Central City information.)

Down through the years Alfred was on the Merrick County Weed District Board for seventeen years, the Merrick County Soil and Water Conservation District Board for eleven years, the Farmer's Co-op Elevator and Lumber Company Board for twenty years at Chapman, the board of the Farmer's Co-op Store for twenty years, the Chapman Telephone Association for ten years, and the Chapman Rural Public Fire District for twenty years. He has also served with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Merrick County Agricultural/Industrial Corporation, the Merrick Foundation, the Merrick County Board of Supervisors, the Centennial Agriculture Committee as its chairman (this group placed the Lone Tree Monument marker on the park west of Central City on Highway 30), the Mid-Nebraska Mental Retardation Board (he served as Region III President for twenty-two counties), Community Action Program for Merrick and Hall Counties, the Head Start Program for Merrick, Hall, and Hamilton counties, the Missouri River Basin Commission (during studies of the Platte river Basin in Nebraska), the Nebraska Senior Citizen's Council, the Bader Memorial Park Board, the Central Platte N.R.D. Advisory Board, and was instrumental in establishing the Merrick County Joint Planning Commission. He has been a District #2 School Board member and on the Merrick County Fair Board for ten years.

In 1959, Alfred was cited with a DeKalb National Sorghum Yield plaque. In 1966, he received the "Outstanding Farmer of the Year Award" from the Central City Chamber of Commerce. Alfred and Elizabeth recieved the "Good Neighbor Award" from AK-SAR-BEN in 1979, an "Award of Service to the Nebraska Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts," the "Head Start Service Award" and "Agri-Businessman Award of Merit" from the Commercial National Bank in Grand Island. He recently received recognition from the Nebraska Senior Citizen's Council for his contributions in that area.

He received Central City Sertoma Club's "Service to Mankind" award in 1980.

Alfred is most proud of his long association with the Mid-Nebraska Mental Retardation Program. In younger years Alfred enjoyed hunting and fishing. Now he likes working to help protect wildlife and upgrading recreational facilities for the communities around him.

Alfred and Elizabeth retired in 1970 and moved to the western edge of Merrick County, near Grand Island. Their philosophy of life has been to make things better for everyone and to leave things better than when they received them. They have made one of their foremost goals the advancement of the mentally retarded, that they might progress toward leading happier, more productive lives. *Submitted by Paula Haynes Bosselman, from manuscripts belonging to Alfred and Elizabeth Bader.*

GARY & CONNYCE BADER

Gary George, born to George and Irwina Bader March 25, 1942, at Palmer, was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church in Palmer. He attended school at District #49 and later District #63, where there was one teacher for all eight grades. He attended Palmer High School and played football, basketball, and track, graduating in 1961.

Connyce Faye (Connie) daughter of James August and Ella Pauline Holtz Bremer, was born September 15, 1944. Baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran at Worms, she attended Zion Lutheran Parochial school. She graduated from Palmer High School in 1962. She was on the girls' volleyball and softball teams in high school.

Gary and Connie were married October 28, 1962, at Zion. They moved onto the Bader Family Farm southwest of Palmer. They live in the same house Gary was born and raised in.

They attend St. John's Lutheran Church in Palmer.

The couple has four children. Tanya Faye seventeen, Shayne Gary fifteen, Kirk John fourteen, and Lana Faith ten, attend school in Palmer. The family farms and raises cattle and also keep enough quarter horses to work the cattle. They raise and use Blue Heeler cattle dogs. They all pitch in and work together taking care of the cattle and doing field work. For several yars Gary broke horses, but now sons Shayne and Kirk do that. Gary, Tanya, Shayne and Kirk also team rope together. That talent comes in very handy during calving season when it's necessary to get in a belligerent cow or treat a sick calf.



Gary Bader Family

Flicka is the family's favorite horse as he was just a colt when Gary brought him home the first winter Gary and Connie were married. Gary broke him and still uses him for roping, cutting, and just plain cowboy-ing!

For hobbies, the family enjoys fishing and Gary and the boys hunt ducks and geese on the Loup River in the fall. Gary has also hunted deer in Nebraska, elk in Colorado and Moose in Canada. As a family hobby snow skiing is tops. Every January several neighbor families go to the Colorado Rockies and enjoy those downhill runs and the fantastic scenery.

The children are all active 4-H members in Junior Farmhands, and show cattle at the Merrick County Fair, AK-SAR-BEN and the Nebraska State Fair.

At Christmas the family gets together with the grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins and usually take turns hosting the Christmas Day dinners. The children participate in the Christmas Eve Program at Church and afterwards the family has their traditional supper of chili soup or oyster stew with salads, cookies and candies they have prepared. Then everyone opens their gifts, it is a special time.

The family has enjoyed being a part of this community and knowing the good people who live here. *Submitted by Connie Bremer Bader*

GEORGE & IRWINA BADER



Mr. and Mrs. George Bader

George Bader and I, Irwina Herbig, were married December 24, 1939, at Worms, Nebraska. We have lived on the same farm in Loup Township,four miles south of Palmer, all our married lives.

George is the son of John L. and Elizabeth Bader, also natives of Merrick County. In fact, George has lived within a radius of two and a half miles in Merrick County all his life. He attended school in District #45, Merrick County, the same school that our two sons, Gary and Dean, later attended.

George was baptized and confirmed in Zion Lutheran Church at Worms and presently he and I are members of St. John's Lutheran Church at Palmer, Nebraska.

I was born to Ralph and Gladys Herbig at Marquette, Nebraska. Later we moved to Howard County where I graduated from St. Paul High School and later from Kearney State Teacher's College in 1970. Our oldest son, Gary, married Connie Bremer and they farm and own a cow/calf operation. Dean graduated from Manhattan Veterinary College in Kansas in 1968. He and Ida Tuma were married in 1971 and he now owns and operates a small animal hospital in Carson, California.

George and I farmed until 1966. We raised turkeys, cattle, hogs, chickens, sheep, corn and small grain. George was a 4-H leader during the years when our boys were active in that club. After Gary took over the farming in 1966, George began working for Farmer's Co-operative Association in Palmer until 1979 when he retired.

I taught rural schools in Howard County and Merrick County from 1934-1939. In 1963 I began working as a teacher's aid in District #19, Gage Valley. In 1966 I began teaching full time until 1979. During my teaching years I taught three of our four grandchildren in the fourth grade in Palmer Public School.

George and I love to travel. During the years we took summer vacations throughout many of the forty-eight states. After we retired in 1979, we began travelling quite extensively. In the fall of 1979

we took an oversea's trip to Europe and Nigeria, Africa. The past two winters we have spent in California and southwestern Arizona.

When spring comes we are anxious to return to our home in Merrick County to see our grandchildren and dear friends once again. *Submitted by George and Irwina Bader*

JOHN & CHRISTINE BADER

John Bader, born in New Philadelphia, Ohio, and Christine Buchfinck born in Dieplitz, Russia, were married at Zion Lutheran church in Worms, Nebraska, on March 20, 1875 by Rev. August Leuthaeuer. Their first home was on the homestead in section 22 in Prairie Creek township in Merrick county. Three of their children were born here: John L. Bader, January 18, 1876, died December 14, 1959; William Baker, April 18, 1877, died May 15, 1941; Mary Caroline, September 8, 1879, died October 26, 1957.

In 1880, John and his wife purchased land in section 5 in Prairie treek Township in Merrick County. They moved with their family to the farm 1½ miles north of Worms. Seven children were born here: Amelia, August 29, 1881, died February 22, 1886; Jacob, April 5, 1883, died July 28, 1967; Rosa Bader Miller, September 16, 1884, died April 18, 1959; Elisabeth Bader Helzer, January 17, 1887, died November 26, 1971; Joseph, March 14, 1888, died November 14, 1971; Edward, April 23, 1890, died October 11, 1969; August H., November 6, 1895, died February 14, 1962.

Mr. Bader continued to purchase land in western Merrick county, and set up his six sons in farming. He was one of those sturdy pioneers who endured bravely all the vicissitudes incident to settling in a new country. For many years he enjoyed the prosperity which was the reward of his industry. He was proud of his family, just to his fellowmen, and proud to be an American.

August, being the youngest son, continued the farming of the home place in Section 5. He married Christine Helzer of the Worms area on October 4, 1916. Christine was born May 5, 1897 and died June 18, 1969. They are buried on the Zion Lutheran Church cemetery in Worms. A son, Harold, was born on January 13, 1917, and a daughter Ellen on October 28, 1922. As Harold grew to manhood, he took over the farm and on October 3, 1948, he married Evelyn Niemoth of St. Libory, Nebraska, at the Zion Lutheran Church in Worms. Evelyn was born February 8, 1925, in Howard County. Their three daughters were the 5th generation to have lived on this farm. The eldest, Judy Lyn, now of Seattle, Washington, was born May 5, 1951. Beverly (Mrs. Dale) Rubesh was born April 23, 1953, and is living in a home on this same farm with her husband and sons, Jeffry and Aaron. Kristy Marie is a senior at Palmer High School. She was born April 2, 1963.

Ellen married Lyman Wedemeyer in August of 1946, and continues to live on a farm south of Ravenna, Nebraska. They have a son, Dennis, who farms with his parents, and a daughter, Janelle, now Mrs. Brad Oberg of Kansas City, Missouri. *Submitted by Harold Bader*

JOHNANES BADER

Johanes Bader was born September 4, 1816, in Wurtenberg, Germany. He died April 12, 1897, in Merrick county, Nebraska. His wife, Elisabeth Studley, was born in the Province of Baden, Germany, and died October 23, 1897. They are buried in Zion Lutheran Church cemetery, Worms, Nebraska, located in western Merrick county. A son born in 1844 named Jacob was also born in Wurtenburg. He came with his parents to America in 1846, settling near new Philadelphia, Ohio. It is recorded that Jacob served with the United States Military during the Civil War, was taken prisoner by the southern army, and died serving his newfound country, and is buried at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Their first daughter, Mary, was born in Ohio and died at a young age of food poisoning. Agnes Rose was born July 7, 1849. She died February 11, 1925, at Portland, Oregon, where she and her husband, Julius Koethe made their home.

John, Jr., was born October 10, 1851. He married Christine Buchfinck March 28, 1875, he died February 6, 1919, and she December 7, 1919. They are buried in Wiegert cemetery in eastern Hall county, Nebraska.

In 1854, Johnanes Bader and his family moved to Minnesota at Lernchet Creek in Huston county. Here Elizabeth Caroline was born on June 15, 1856. She died Jan. 17, 1943 in Oxnard, California. She was married to Richard Rebbe, born June 8, 1848. He died Jan. 17, 1917, at Spearfish, South Dakota.

Ludwig or Louis Bader was born at Lernchet Creek in Minnesota in 1858 and died in Oregon City, Oregon November 5, 1957. His wife Mary (no record). They had an only daughter (Charlotte) who never married, and died August 21, 1959. She is buried in Portland, Oregon.

Of next-born Caroline we have no record, only that she married a Mr. Young and resided at one time in the Black Hills of South Dakota area.

In 1873, Johnanes and wife Elisabeth Studley came with their 5 children to Prairie Creek township in Merrick County, getting a Land Grant in Section 15, Township 13, Range 8. Later, their son John homesteaded fifty acres in Section 22.

In 1880, John Jr. purchased land in section 5 — township 13 — range 8. At this time, John Jr. moved with his family to this farm. Today this land still remains in the Bader family. A grandson of John Jr., Harold Bader and wife still own and continue to live on the farm. *Submitted by Harold Bader*

HENRY & JOHANNA BAESE

My grandmother, Johanna Donovan Baese, was a homesteader in Merrick County. She probably inherited her pioneer spirit from her father, John Donovan, Sr. He was born near Dublin, Ireland in County Cork in 1820. He married Jane Hickey in 1846 and came to America in 1848, moving to Pennsylvania until 1867. He then settled in Chapman in 1868 and was section foreman there on the newly built Union Pacific railroad. John Donovan, Sr. donated the land for the Chapman Cemetery. He died in 1902.



Herman and Johanna Baese

As stories are told Johanna, born February 20, 1855, was a determined young lady. Coming with her father and his family in 1868 she homesteaded a farm near the community of Chapman while she was yet in her teens. Having to remain on the farm located one mile east and 1⅜ mile north of the village of Chapman, a certain number of days and nights to secure her claim Johanna sighted several Indians on one occasion. She managed to keep a calmness about her, found a safe hiding place, and remained out of sight until they passed.

Johanna married Herman Henry Baese October 30, 1881 in Central City. Herman, born December 13, 1854 in Buffalo, New York, and Johanna, passing away January 15, 1922, became stalwart members of the Chapman Community for fifty-seven years. Herman, fondly remembered in a tribute at his death April 1, 1936 as a "Grand Old Man" was one of the first county commissioners of Merrick County having his name inscribed on the cornerstone of the Merrick County Courthouse.

Of this union one son, Fred J. Baese, my father, was born March 11, 1883. My father preceded his father in death March 25, 1925. My father was one of the first farmers to switch from horse drawn machinery to tractor when he purchased his Fordson Tractor. The huge wheels on the back had large "lugs" on them and Granddad insisted this would "pack the soil". Granddad Herman Baese continued to use his faithful horses, Tony and Major.



Dorothy Baese Yutesler — 1934

Fred Baese married my Mother, Genevieve Nunneman, August 15, 1914. My brother Charles, passing away October 7, 1979, and I were born on this farm as was my father, which remained a part of our family until 1960. I feel very proud in being a direct descendant of one of the earliest pioneers of Merrick County. I am also fortunate in the continuation of our heritage in my children, Charles Douglas Yutesler and Sheryl Yutesler Barry, and in their children: Kim, Kari, and Kathy Yutesler and Shannon Mistene Barry, and my great-grandchild: Donnie. *Submitted by Dorothy Baese Yutesler*

THE BAHENSKY FAMILY

In 1868, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bahensky and his parents came to United States on ship from near Prague, Czechoslovakia, with two children, Anna (two years) and Winslow James (Jim) a baby. They all stopped near the Big Blue River in Nebraska. Later, Joseph and wife took up a homestead and settled near Crete, Nebraska, in Saline County. There, Damon (KD), Joseph Jr. (Joe), Gusta and Stephen (Steve) were born. Joseph and Jim drove an oxen and horse to Nebraska City to get lumber to build a house.

In 1882, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bahensky and family came to Merrick County, to a farm southwest of Archer, Nebraska, on Prairie Creek, on north side of the road from Albert Brunk. John Miller lived one-half mile west on the north side of the road. There are no buildings on any of the three places now. During the blizzard of January 12, 1888, Jim drove a team of horses and wagon to the school a quarter of a mile to pick up kids and teacher. His dad rang a bell for them to find their way back home. They all stayed at the Bahensky home until the storm was over. In 1913, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bahensky moved to to a farm in Howard County, west of Palmer, Nebraska, where Ronnie Bahensky now lives.

Anna worked as a cook in Omaha, Oregon, Hord's in Central City, and S.N. Wolbach's in Grand Island. She later stayed home with her parents.

Jim and Damon worked on the Burlington Railroad grade with four head of mules between Ord and Archer. Then they went to Colorado to work. Damon got sick so they came home. They farmed in the hills northeast of Cushing, Nebraska, for awhile. Later they went to the University in Lincoln.

Jim started driving a team of horses for a state

veterinarian out of Lincoln, and helping with his work. He saw that Jim was doing good work, and went to sending him out on veterinary calls by himself. He later continued the work for himself. He specially treated horses for fistula and polevia (sores on their neck and shoulders). He took a state veterinary test in Lincoln, and received doctors licenses with high honors. He visited Damon near Prague, Nebraska, and met Anna Belik. They got married February 10, 1898. They farmed different places in Merrick County between Central City and Palmer. In 1912, they moved to a farm two miles southwest of Palmer in Merrick County and continued to do veterinary work. They lived where Don McClellan now lives. They had three children. Lillian Vetter, worked in St. Paul, Omaha, and Anselmo, Nebraska. She retired to Palmer in 1978, was deceased in 1980, buried in Palmer Cemetery. Alice Kutch lived on farms in Howard County, and retired into Palmer in 1969. Alton and wife Martha farmed the home place, and retired into Palmer in 1967.

Damon, a teacher near Prague, married Emma Kaspar of near Morse Bluffs, Nebraska, moved to St. Paul and worked in the courthouse, then to a farm southwest of Palmer in Howard County. They had two daughters, Mabel still on the home farm and Julia Gibson in Omaha. Their three sons, Leonard, Raymond, and Clinton, retired in St. Paul.

Joe stayed on the farm with his parents.

Gusta married Weldon Harshburger of Merrick County, and later went to Oregon, California, and Arizona. They had one daughter, Mabel Ball. Both were deceased in Arizona.

Steve married Ruby Kutch of Oregon, farmed in Merrick County, later moved to a farm in Howard County in 1914. They had four children: Edna Zuehlkeon living on a farm southwest of Palmer, LeRoy now in Lincoln, Melvin and Lyle on farms southwest of Palmer. Lyle is still on the home farm. Mrs. Steve Bahensky, age 91, in 1981 is the only one living of the older group.

All the deceased are buried at Palmer Cemetery, but Gusta. Mr. Joseph Bahensky lived from 1839 to 1924, Mrs. Joseph Bahensky 1841 to 1922, Anna 1865 to 1944, Jim 1868 to 1955, Damon 1870 to 1960, Joe 1871 to 1950, and Steve 1880 to 1964. *Submitted by Mrs. Alton (Martha) Bahensky*

W.J. BAHENSKY CHILDREN

Jim Bahensky of Archer and Anna Belik of Prague were married February 10, 1898. They farmed different places in Merrick County, and ended their farming and veterinary work near Palmer, where Don McClellan now lives. They had three children: Lillian, born December 29, 1898, Alice, born May 3, 1900, and Alton, born June 30, 1901. They celebrated their 57th Wedding Anniversary in 1955. Jim was deceased March 25, 1955, and Anna November 1, 1966. Both are buried in Palmer Cemetery.

Lillian worked in the courthouse in St. Paul, then Omaha, and later took a beauty course. She married Henry Vetter and moved to Anselmo, Nebraska, where she continued beautician work. She retired to Palmer in 1978, and was deceased in 1980. She was buried in Palmer Cemetery.

Alice married Don Kutch October 17, 1918. They lived on farms in Howard County, retired and moved to Palmer in 1969. Don was deceased January 18, 1976. They have one son, Bernard, born May 6, 1920, who farmed with his folks. He married Loraine Meyers, a neighbor, November 7, 1941, and farmed for himself for awhile. Then they moved to Idaho Springs, Colorado, to own and manage a grocery store. They have two daughters married, and now five grandchildren.

Alton farmed the home place with his folks, married Martha Nielsen November 29, 1936, and continued farming the home place. They retired and moved into Palmer in 1967. They have two sons, James and Charles, who both graduated from Palmer High School, James in 1966 and Charles in 1968. James who was born June 3, 1948, went five years to University of Nebraska in Lincoln. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering. He worked seven summers for Dinsdales of Palmer, one summer in Omaha, and at the Universi-



Jim and Anna Bahensky
57th Anniversary

ty to support himself through school. He is now employed at the University of Nebraska Medical Center of Omaha. He has later taken a night course and got a Master's Degree. He married Judy Woebbeckke of Seward on August 31, 1969. They have two children, a daughter Ashley and a son Jacob. Charles was born February 3, 1950. He worked for Bill Kucera and Lemmermans' Chicken Farm of Palmer during summers. He went to Denver, Colorado, to an 18-months course in electronics, then came home and worked for Orville Nicholas with electronic work. He enlisted in Air Force Service in October 1, 1970, and got back into electronic work. He has served three and half years in Germany, and is now stationed in Almogordo, New Mexico. He's signed in now until October, 1982, in Air Force Service. He married Judy Bergholtz of Grand Island October 9, 1971. They have a son, Sean, and a daughter, Kendra, born in Germany. *Submitted by Mrs. Alton Bahensky*

CASH BAIRD FAMILY

Cash and Eileen Baird and their son, Jack, and daughter, Betty, moved to Merrick County Dec. 1, 1945. The Bairds have since resided on their farm in Midland Township, which they had purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Ted Beck. The farm was better known as the Bert Crouch farm.

Cash was born in Redding, Iowa, September 7, 1898, to Samuel P. and Ella McMasters Baird, being the seventh of a family of ten children. He received his education in a rural school near their home and attended High School in Redding, Iowa. In 1918 he went to Idaho to visit relatives and two years later he moved to Grand Island with a sister and her family. They resided on a farm west of Grand Island near my parents and that is how we became acquainted.

Eileen was born in Grand Island, Nebraska April 23, 1904, to Roscoe W. and Mary Lahann Poore. She was the eldest of their two daughters and attended rural grade school in Hall County and graduated from Grand Island High School in 1922. After graduation she did office work in Grand Island for the next three years. On January 1, 1926, Cash and Eileen were united in marriage in her parents home west of Grand Island. The first four years of our married life was spent on a farm near Grand Island, then we moved to Doniphan, Nebraska, where we resided until we came to Merrick County.

Jack was born in Grand Island July 7, 1928. He graduated from Grand Island High School, University of Nebraska at Lincoln and Washington State University at Pullman, Washington. On June 5, 1949, he was united in marriage to Leota P. Rawlings. They are the parents of three sons and have resided in Raleigh, North Carolina, the past sixteen years, where Jack heads the Soil Science Section of the Extension Agronomy Staff.

Betty was born at Doniphan, Nebraska October 26, 1931. After graduating from High School she attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. On April 20, 1952 she and Howard Zeilinger of David City, Nebraska, were married in the Fairview Church near Central City. After getting out of service, Howard has worked in Soil Conservation work in Hall, Franklin and Kimball counties. They have resided in Kimball, Nebraska, the past seventeen years. They are the parents of one son and one daughter.

After moving to Merrick County Cash continued his farming operations for several years, then rented out the land, but continued to reside in the farm home, then gradually worked into the Insurance business until 1975 when he suffered a severe heart attack and was forced into retirement. On May 21, 1980, he had another attack and died suddenly in Kimball, Nebraska, where we were visiting our daughter and family.



Mr. and Mrs. Cash Baird

We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in August 1975. We have been members of the Fairview United Methodist Church since living in Merrick County. We are both members of the Eastern Star and Cash was active in several Masonic organizations. *Written by Eileen Baird, October 1980.*

ROBERT BAIRD FAMILY

My grandmother, Lucinda Baird, was the fourth of ten children born to Robert and Mary Jane (McDonald) Baird. The family moved to Merrick County, Nebraska, in 1871, where they homesteaded 160 acres in Section 12, Township 14, Range 6. Severe hardships required them to return to Illinois in 1877; however, in 1884 they returned to their Nebraska homestead where they raised their family and became true pioneers of Merrick County. This property is still in the Baird Family, belonging to Robert and Arline Baird, having the distinction of being in the same family for over 100 years.

Robert Gibson Baird was born in Randolph County, Illinois, 31 October, 1939, and died 20 February, 1922, Central City, Nebraska. His parents were Hugh Baird (1806-1856) and Martha Brown (1808-1880) from South Carolina. He was educated near Sparta, Illinois, and became a farmer. He enlisted for service during the Civil War and was assigned to Company H, Twenty-second Illinois Infantry and served from 1861-1864.

He was united in marriage to Mary Jane McDonald (born 12 May, 1943, died 28 December, 1915) on 18 January, 1966, at Sparta, Illinois.

Lucinda was born in 1871, and died in 1966. She was married first to Warren Bice, who died soon after their marriage, and second was married to William S. Desch. The other Baird children were William (died in infancy), Prudence (1868-1902), Hugh (1869-1925), Mary Jane (Scudder) (1872-1945), Martha (Crites) (1874-1964), Elizabeth (1876-1963), Robert (1879-1956), Cora (Bockes) (1881-1947), and David (1883-1935).



Robert Baird Family on Homestead

Robert G. Baird was instrumental in organizing his School District, #21, and served in the various offices of its boards for many years. He and his wife Mary Jane are charter members of the First Presbyterian Church, Central City, Nebraska, which was organized at Central City in 1872.

In 1910, Robert G. retired from farming, and he and Mary Jane moved to Central City and purchased a home. He was actively interested in affairs pertaining to the welfare of Nebraska, especially in Merrick County.

To continue the Baird family back two more generations, Hugh Baird's parents were James Baird (1782-1861) and Prudence Gibson (1784-1843) of South Carolina; and James Baird's parents were John Baird (?-1803) and Lilias McClurken (1758-ca. 1790), also of South Carolina. *Submitted by W. Georgenne Gregg Hall, Great-granddaughter of Robert G. Baird*

ROBERT G. BAIRD

Robert G. Baird, son of Hugh and Martha (Brown) Baird, was born in Randolph County, Illinois, near Sparta, Illinois, October 31, 1839. He was educated in his home schools.

He enlisted in the service of his country in the state of Illinois May 11, 1861, and served until July 8, 1864.

On January 18, 1866, he married the daughter of William and Jane (McClelland) McDonald, Mary J. McDonald, of Randolph County, Illinois. Both Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Baird's parents came to Randolph County from South Carolina.

Mr. Baird was engaged in farming in Illinois on his father's homestead until he and his family came to Merrick County and took up a homestead of 160 acres between Clarks and Central City. He remained on his homestead, except from 1877 to 1884 when he and his family returned to Sparta, Illinois. He returned to his homestead, which he had not sold, and farmed several years before moving to Central City, Nebraska, in 1910.

He was instrumental in organizing District #21 in Merrick County, and served on the board for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Baird were charter members of the First Presbyterian church in Central City, which was organized in 1872. They were active in church and community affairs, and widely known and respected.

They had 10 children: William Henry Baird; Hugh Baird; Miss Prudence Baird; Mrs. Lucinda (Baird) Desch; Mrs. Mary Jane (Baird) Scudder; Mrs. Martha Amelia (Baird) Crites; Robert Bryson Baird; Mrs. Cora (Baird) Bockes; David McClelland Baird.

They had 27 grandchildren and fifty-eight great-grandchildren. Robert Baird, son of McClelland, with his wife and son Rex, still live on the old homestead between Clarks and Central City. *Submitted by Mildred Crites Karre*

ROBERT & ARLINE BAIRD

The Baird family of Merrick County is descended from Bairds who came to the United States from Scotland in the early 1700s. In about 1819, Hugh James Baird and his son, Hugh, moved from South Carolina to Illinois. After serving in the Union Army during the Civil War, Hugh's son, Robert G. Baird, came to Nebraska with his family and homesteaded a quarter section on Silver Creek in Merrick County, the place where we live on 120 acres of the original 160. This was in 1871, five years before Custer's Last Stand. Robert G. Baird and his wife, Mary McDonald Baird, had 10 children with Bob's dad, David McClellan Baird, being the youngest. He married Annie Mills, whose father had homesteaded a timber claim on the Platte River in about 1868. They had five children, Dorothy — 1908, Prudence — 1910, Marjorie — 1911, Robert G. — 1913, and Annie Louise — 1918-1979. Bob was born on this place and has lived here continuously except for three years of service in the United States Army during World War II.



David McClellan Baird
(1883-1935)
Annie Mills Baird
(1882-1942)

My family, mostly Czech, came to Nebraska during the late 1800s with the immigrant wave from Central Europe. They settled near Clarkson in Colfax County, where I grew up. I taught in Merrick and Howard Counties and Bob and I were married in 1946. I continued teaching until 1969 when Rex Allen Baird was born, the fourth generation to live on the original Baird homestead.

The three of us, Robert G., Arline, and Rex continue to live here and attempt to retain the traditions of the family. We have in our possession the original homestead papers and the discharge papers of the first Robert G. Baird from the Union Army as well as the discharge papers of the present Robert G. Baird from the U.S. Army. We preserve these documents with a great deal of pride. *Submitted by Arline Baird*

BAKER-BEMAN

My grandparents, Abram P. Beman and Esther Lamb Beman, came to Nebraska with her parents, Squire and Carolyn Stark Lamb, from Madison, Wisconsin in 1857. Both couples first settled on land where the town of Schuyler now stands and five years later moved near Wood River. Squire "Pap" Lamb drove a stage from Wood River to Fort Kearny and Mrs. Lamb operated the Western Stage Inn.



Vernon and Marie Baker

Abram Beman was born in Chateaugay, New York in 1834 and died in Merrick County in 1911. He was the grandson of Nathan Beman who fought in the Revolutionary War. Esther Lamb Beman was born in Cooperstown, New York in 1838 and died in 1914. (In 1869 Abram and Esther Beman came to Merrick County. They purchased a homestead which remained the family home for many years).

My father, John Wesley Beman, was born in Hall County in 1866 and farmed in Merrick County until he died in 1935. My mother, Elizabeth ~~(Hall)~~ Beman, was born in Henry County, Illinois, in 1871 and died in 1943. She came to Merrick County as a young woman to teach school. They had seven children — Percy (1892-1967), Leonard (1894-1911), Helen (1896-1917), Marie (1897), Alice (1902), Ralph (1903), John (1905).

I, Marie, taught school in Merrick and Nance Counties until I was married. Vernon J. Baker and I were married in 1924. He was born in 1891 in Wayne County, Nebraska, the son of Andrew S. and Rebecca Davis Baker. He served in the Navy during World War I and attended York Business College.

We moved to Central City in 1927 and Vernon

operated the Star Mail Route between Central City and Greeley for five years. He worked for many years in the high school and later in the Post Office. We were both active in the Presbyterian Church, the American Legion and Auxiliary, and the Masons and Eastern Star. Vernon served as elder in the church for over thirty years and as Clerk of Session for twenty years. In 1965 he was elected Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church which met in Columbus, Ohio. He held offices as Adjutant, Commander, and Chaplain of the American Legion and was the first Barracks Commander of Merrick County Barracks of World War I Veterans. I was active in the Ladies Auxiliary and served as President. Vernon was a member of Lone Tree Lodge of the Masons and was Master in 1949. We both were members of the Arbor Chapter of the Eastern Star and served together as Worthy Patron and Worthy Matron in 1959.

We celebrated our Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in 1974. Vernon Baker died on April 28, 1978 and is buried in the Central City Cemetery.

Our daughter, Verna Marie, was born in 1930. She attended Central City schools and graduated from Hastings College. She married James W. Grant of Columbus, Nebraska. They have two children, William and Janet. *Compiled by Marie Beman Baker*

GRACE HAYES BANNISTER

William Brage, who is my grandfather was born June 17, 1860 and died May 1, 1889. Louise, his wife was born January 10, 1863 in Wolderheim, Germany and died May 4, 1938. When they came to the States they sent their trunk and a big locked box with their clothes ahead. They reached a sea port in England and took a ship across the Atlantic Ocean and landed in what is now called New Jersey. They came by train to Nebraska, stopping south of what is now Central City, Nebraska. There they bought a wagon and horses. Then they moved six and a half miles north where they built a house, barn and cattle shed.

After they were settled a son, Fredrick Brage left to live in Grand Island where he drew plans for buildings, whatever people wanted. Later he went to Dallas, Texas where he drew plans for a company. He died in 1960. Another brother went to Alaska and the third brother stayed at home to run the farm.

William Brage earned the name of Leap Frog Brage because while planting ash trees on the farm he just leaped from one tree to the other while planting.

The mail box was put out at the road, then when any of the neighbors went to town they got the mail and put it in your box.

As the daughter, Louise went through the third grade. She had to quit school to help in the fields, picking up corn that was knocked down by the wagon. If she missed getting it in the wagon they were picked up the second time. She also helped her mother in the kitchen. After her mother died Louise had to take her place and do all the house work as well as the garden.

William H. Hayes (my father) lived with his parents in London, England. As he was the oldest he became "Bus Boy" for the King. Later growing tired of that work, he quit and the family moved to Canary Island where the only girl died. The family then moved back to England and William took a ship and came to New York, then went by train where they did tree farming north of the Great Lakes. He earned enough money to send for his two brothers, mother and father to come to what is now Michigan. One brother went south to Mississippi and later moved to Oklahoma.

William then worked his way west and south on the railroad, later doing odd jobs. He finally ended up across the road from a nice young lady whom he later married. They had five children, Grace (myself) who married Walter Bannister, Laura married Oscar Mills and Fred married Hannah Newton. Bill and Mary never married. *Submitted by Grace Hayes Bannister*

JOSEPH RAY BARNES FAMILY

Joseph Ray Barnes, son of Elhanan Davies Barnes and Lydia Emily Goff, and great-great-grandson of William Barnes, Revolutionary War Artilleryman, was born 18 October 1889, Guthrie County, Iowa. He married 7 November 1917, Central City, Nebraska, and died 11 June 1971, Caldwell, Idaho. Burial was at Greenleaf, Idaho. His wife was Bessie Amanda Mesner, born 2 May 1895, Pleasant Plain, Jefferson County, Iowa, daughter of Philip Mesner and Nancy Ann Emry. She died 9 November 1971, Caldwell, Idaho, and was buried at Greenleaf, Idaho.

Their children: Clayton Raymond Barnes, born 6 September 1918, Central City, Nebraska; married 6 April 1941, Homedale, Idaho to Dorothy Mae Robertson, daughter of Robert Samuel Robertson and Gladys Viola Leitner; four children; residence, Caldwell, Idaho. Joseph Philip Barnes, born 29 September 1919, Central City, Nebraska; married 6 June 1944, West Point, New York to Maxine Roberta Young, daughter of John Young and Edith Mae Helms; three children; residence, Prescott, Arizona. Paul Numa Vernon Barnes, born 30 June 1924, Central City, Nebraska; married 2 May 1944, Homedale, Idaho to Vera Ann Ulrich, daughter of Christian P. Ulrich and Martha Alta Pollock; five children; residence, Madras, Oregon. Marilyn Ruth Barnes, born 5 July 1932, Central City, Nebraska; married (1) 15 August 1955, Homedale, Idaho to Harlan Paul Barnett, son of Paul W. Barnett and Alice Mendenhall; two children; divorced 25 July 1966, Salem Oregon; married (2) 22 November 1972, Clackamas, Oregon to Earnest Truett Horne, son of George Espey Horne and Effie Ione McEalster; residence, Salem, Oregon.



Ray Barnes Family — 1967

Ray Barnes came to Nebraska Central College in 1910 to attend the Academy, graduating in 1913. He played football on the College team, which led to enrollment at Whittier College, California for two years prior to return to NCC for the 1916 football season. Ray began farming in Lone Tree Township in 1917, and was married to Bessie Mesner that fall. He continued farming while completing his college work, graduating from NCC in 1924. He taught in schools at Seward, Gresham, Henderson, Creston, Republican City, and Naponee, all Nebraska towns, before moving in 1938 to Owyhee County, Idaho. He farmed there until retiring to nearby Homedale. Data on his parents' family follows.

Elhanan Davies Barnes, born 29 March 1852, Harrison County, (West) Virginia, son of Jesse Barnes and Susannah Vincent; married 29 September 1881, Madison County, Iowa; died 29 January 1926, Central City, Nebraska; buried Holyoke, Colorado; wife, Lydia Emily Goff, born 2 May 1858, Delaware County, Indiana, daughter of Nathan P. Goff and Elizabeth Norris; died 24 February 1910, Holyoke, Colorado and buried there.

Their children: Aaron Truman Barnes, born 21 October 1882, Guthrie County, Iowa; married 19 April 1905, Knox County, Nebraska; died 3 August 1970, Central City, Nebraska; wife, Margaret Althea Himil, born 12 December 1885, Iowa; died 12 April 1968, Lincoln, Nebraska and buried there. Nora Blanche Barnes, born 27 July 1884, Guthrie County, Iowa; died 24 November 1971, Aurora, Nebraska; buried Holyoke, Colorado. Owen Carlton Barnes, born 18 June 1886, Guthrie County, Iowa; married 30 June 1910, Center, Nebraska; died 21 February 1952, Central City, Nebraska and buried there; wife, Grace D. Johnson, born 7 December 1884, Danbury, Iowa; died 29 June 1967, Fullerton, Nebraska; buried Central City, Nebraska. Joseph Ray Barnes, subject of this sketch. *Submitted by Phil Barnes*

ROSS V. BAUMANN FAMILY

I am the eldest of four daughters born to Mr. and Mrs. Quiznee Farnum Lambert. My given name is Ruth Lucile. I was born one mile east of Palmer and attended Palmer public schools until I was fifteen years of age when I moved with my family to Fullerton, Nebraska. After I graduated from high school I entered the University of Nebraska. There I had part time work in the school cafeteria, a tea room and other odd jobs. I graduated, taught Home Economics at Randolph, Nebraska and Albion, Nebraska, Lansing, Michigan and substituted in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

During my first year at the university I met Ross Virgil Baumann from Doniphan, Nebraska. We were in several of the same classes. July 2, 1938 we were married in my great-aunt Ruth Fishel's home at Marion, Iowa. There were thirty relatives and friends present.

While studying at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts my husband had worked for the United States Department of Agriculture during the summers. He was to continue with them for a total of forty-two years before his retirement in September, 1977. During this time we were located in several interesting places: East Lansing, Michigan; St. Paul, Minnesota; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Ames, Iowa and Washington, D.C.

In December, 1943 he was called into the United States Navy Reserves as a Lieutenant (jg). He was away from home for twenty-five months. In September 1944 he left Houston, Texas with a full crew on a ship called, L.S.M. #39. After the war he resigned his commission as a Lieutenant and took up his old work as an economist. He wrote his thesis, took his oral examinations at Harvard and was granted a Ph.D. in Economics.

We have three daughters: Theil Elizabeth born at Lansing, Michigan July 16, 1939. Nancy Ruth born at Milwaukee, Wisconsin May 26, 1941 and Edith May born in Ames, Iowa February 29, 1949. We have seven grandchildren.



Ross and Ruth Bauman — 1981

We have participated in the Methodist Church. I also enjoyed the organization within the church called "Mother's Jewels." I think Mrs. Greenway was in charge.

Memories:

1. Following World War I, the celebration, when the school children marched to Main Street in Palmer to see the "Kaiser" burned in effigy, in celebration of America's victory.

2. The Opera House with its many stairs, where Civic affairs were held, especially school Christmas programs like the year "Miss Jo" (Copeland) coached her room in the singing of the season's songs. Dressed as angels we stood on series of raised platforms. Then there were July 4 and the Memorial Day programs and many others.

3. Chautauqua, with its big tent and family oriented entertainment, in session for a week or more.

4. Stories told by my grandfather Lambert about early times, drought, dust storms, blizzards, also swarms of grasshoppers that would devour a farmer's crop in the field in a very short time. We once had a blizzard that drifted so much the men had to go out a window to scoop a patch so we could walk out the front door. The drift between the buildings was so high we couldn't see the barn from the house.

5. My grandparent's summer kitchen that had been divided into three sections by partial partitions, for winter usage, the storage of coal for the base-burner, cobs, etc. As soon as school was out in the spring we cleaned and scrubbed it. With the addition of curtains and doilies made from flowered feed sacks, a few rag rugs and old furnishings we had a fine place for us girls, the neighbor children and some of mother's piano pupils who were invited to spend the day to play. *Submitted by Ruth Lambert Baumann*

BAUMAN — LOHR

The Bauman family extends back two centuries, and covers about fifteen generations.

The Bauman name means builders or architect. The name Bauman has an interesting story, involving name change. John Dieter Bauman, son of Meinrich Bauman Sr., willing to educate his twelve children, hired a school-master teacher of English to teach them, as well as the other boys and girls of the neighborhood. Their school-master, not possessing a knowledge of German, spelled the first syllable, "Bau", "Bow". Some of the interesting spellings are Bowman, Boman, Boughman.

A German tradition relates that our ancesters were German-Swiss. Another tradition in the family states that "Forstetum-Lippe was their early home section of Germany, in the vicinity of Teutenberger Wald and the upper Hartz Mountains.

The family coat-of-arms depicts an uprooted tree borne over the right shoulder and ax carried in the right hand, proving that the man was going to build from this tree. This is the original meaning of Bauman.

Eight men and Wendel Bauman came to America on the ship, "Mary Hope". They arrived in Philadelphia in October, 1709. These families arranged with William Penn's agent and the Provincial Surveyer for ten thousand acres of land on the Pequea Creek, in the wilderness sixty miles west of Philadelphia, which is now Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Great-great-great-grandfather, George Lohr married Barbara Miller. They had ten children. One of these ten children, George Lohr, married Susanna Bowman Lohr and they had ten children. One of these children was William Lohr, my great-grandfather. He married Catharine Shank and they had seven children. One of these children, William Lohr, Jr., was my grandfather.

My grandfather, William Lohr, was a conductor for the Union Pacific Railroad. He married Alice Heinemeyer and they lived in Columbus. They had three children. One was my father, Louis Lohr. He, too, worked for the Union Pacific Railroad for nearly forty years. He married my mother, Elizabeth (Hoevet) Lohr, and they had five living children. I, Louise (Lohr) Brunken, am the oldest daughter, and I married Milton Brunken. We have eight children and 11 grandchildren. This makes the sixth generation of Lohrs. *By Mrs. Milton Brunken*

CLINTON BAUM

Clinton Baum was born at Milltown, South Dakota on September 1, 1904 to George and Carrie Edith Wheatly Baum. His great-grandfather was John Baum, born in Pennsylvania in 1811. Grandfather George Steven Baum was born in Michigan in 1841 and his father George Ernest Baum in 1871.

The Baum family moved from Three River Michigan to Milltown, South Dakota when George was seven years old. They were farmers there, and it was on the family dairy farm that Clinton was born. His early education was at Milltown. Later the family moved to near Mitchell, South Dakota where he finished his education, receiving a B.A. degree from Dakota Wesleyan University at Mitchell in 1927.

Clinton Baum has had an interesting and colorful career. His pursuits have included farming, custodial work, cooking and general merchandising.

While operating a general store at Milltown, he met and married Pansy Clifton in 1935. After this period in Milltown from 1929 until 1935 the family, now including daughter Blanche, now Mrs. Blanche Wymore of Beatrice, moved to Long Beach, California where they lived until 1942. As a chef, in a Long Beach cafe, the Baum family managed to live on wages that, at times, were as low as one dollar per day. During the California years, two sons, James, now of Springfield, Ohio and Ernest of Lincoln, were born.

In 1942 the Baums came to Paxton where they farmed. Here daughter Mary joined the family. She is now Mrs. John Policky and lives at the Naval Base near Detroit. In 1945, the family moved to Lincoln and resided there until 1971 when Clinton came to Central City to act as relief men for his son who operated a filling station in east Central City.

It was here in Merrick County that his wife Pansy died in 1972. She is buried at Lincoln, Nebraska. While Clinton Baum is not a native of Merrick County, he likes this area and its friendly people and lives happily at Bader Village. *Submitted by Clinton Baum*

DALE BECK FAMILY

Dale and I were married on February 11, 1949, at Pierce Chapel Church northwest of Clarks. Dale is the son of Ruth (deceased) and Raymond Beck now living at Central City. My parents are Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Kaminsky (both deceased).

Our first home was Dale's childhood home three miles west of Clarks near District #25 schoolhouse. While living there, our first child, Gay Marie, was born February 25, 1950.

When our second child, David Allen, was born January 13, 1952, we were living northeast of Clarks in my childhood home on the farm purchased from my parents. We later sold this farm.

On December 7, 1954, our twins, Joan Kay and Joe Ray arrived while we were temporarily living back in our first home. After building a home on property purchased near Havens (former town about 5 miles east of Clarks) we moved there in the spring of 1955. Our youngest child, Pat Elaine, was born September 19, 1956.

Our church was the Clarks Methodist Church, where our children were baptized and which we attended.

Our oldest daughter was privileged to attend country school at District #61, less than a mile from home, until consolidation with Clarks where all our children attended.

Our family has a close relationship with our relatives so grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins play an important role in our lives and those of our children.

Horses became the main hobby of our family, with the children riding while very young. We had some trustworthy ponies to ride and pull carts. Soon, however, everyone rode horses and before long several of the children helped their dad break colts. It was not unusual on a Sunday afternoon for the seven of us to ride horses to Clarks and back. We rode nearly every day.



Dale Beck Family
Pat, Joan, Gay, Jeanette, Dale, David and Joe

For a number of years, we enjoyed frequent get-togethers with the following Clarks families for picnics and horseback riding: John Kohl, James Booth, Roger Beck, and Ira Reisener.

In 1963, we sold the place near Havens and lived about a year on a farm on the west edge of Clarks where the Deryel Beck family lives now. In 1964, we purchased a two-section ranch (known as the Green ranch) located about halfway between Silver Creek and Genoa on Highway 39. We named our place the Bar Lazy D Ranch, and the family picture accompanying this story was taken here in 1965.

Our children attended and graduated from the Silver Creek School. We attend the Silver Creek United Methodist Church, where the children and I are active members, and I have enjoyed working in Bible School; Jr. MYF; UMW; Bible Study etc.

For several years, we were members of the Pawnee Warriors Saddle Club of Genoa and participated in parades, horse shows, and trail rides. A highlight of our family riding experiences was accompanying the Platte Valley Wranglers on a 100-mile ride to Burwell in 1970. Later, we became members of that club.

At the present time (1980) Dale and our two sons, having acquired more land, operate as a partnership. Our family has grown to 24 in number, with our five children married. Their spouses are: Randy Chinn; Sara (Hord) Beck; Rod Gaedeke; Rosie (Brand) Beck; Ron Cuba. We have 10 grandchildren, and enjoying them is my favorite hobby. *Written by Mrs. Dale Beck*

DAVE BECK FAMILY



Dave Beck Family

Dave and Sara Beck, married seven years, live four miles south of Genoa on the Horseshoe Valley Ranch. Dave, born in 1952, is a partner with his dad, Dale Beck, and brother, Joe, in a farm-ranch operation. We are also in the Quarter Horse and Paint Horse business. We are presently standing at stud a proven Paint stallion. Dave still finds a little time to shoe a few horses for people, too.

I (Sara) am a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Hord of Central City. I have three brothers and one sister, and I am the only one living in Nebraska. My dad died in 1973, and my mother, Mrs. Gloria M. Ewoldt, presently lives in Dillon, Colorado. My grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Hord, have a home in Central City and one in Scotsdale, Arizona.

As a teenager, I hated school because I studied and worried too much. I would sweat blood if I had to give a speech in front of the class. However, I was in lots of activities. My sister, Debra, and I took dance lessons and I, acrobatics for twelve years and we both got to be C.C. High School cheerleaders. I then attended the University of Nebraska School of Agriculture and became a Veterinary Technician.

I have always loved horses, and Dave has always been involved with them since childhood, also. We

met at the horse shows.

Dave attended high school at Silver Creek. He participated in sports, helped his dad with chores, then broke and rode several horses each day. During the summers, he learned to be a farrier. After graduation, he trained and shod horses for a stable in Imperial, Nebraska; then later, with Jim Ellenwood in Genoa.

Dave is very artistic and enjoys making weird things out of horseshoes. His hobbies include coyote, deer, and elk hunting and calf roping. Dave's dream is to, someday, build a big barn with an indoor arena.

We are blessed with two wonderful daughters: Tracie Suzanne, born October 25, 1974, and Tani Gaylene, born January 17, 1976. Tracie goes to kindergarten and loves school.

We attend the United Methodist Church in Silver Creek and we try hard to live Christian lives. *Submitted by Sara Hord Beck*

DAVID R. BECK FAMILY

David Roswell Beck was born August 20, 1988, the first child of John and Anna Lumadue Beck, at the family farm northwest of Clarks. He received his early schooling at Pleasant Hill country school.

David lived most of his teen years with his maternal grandparents, John and Jane Lumadue, where he engaged in farming and cattle feeding. In 1909 he was married to Fern Trullinger, daughter of James and Matilda Trullinger.

They made their home on a farm south of Pleasant Hill School and to them were born three children: two daughters, Helen (Fleshman) now living at Bellevue, Nebraska, and Lola (Mrs. Ed Hoback) living west of Central City, and Harold, at Clarks.

David attended Pierce Chapel Church and Sunday School from childhood, and received his name in honor of Roswell Pierce, for whom the Chapel was named.

David was a victim of the flu epidemic during World War One and, as a result, had poor health the remainder of his life.

David was a member of the Farmers Union in Clarks for a number of years.

In 1947, David and Fern purchased a farm three miles west of Clarks, where they spent their retirement years enjoying gardening and flower growing, until David's death in 1962. Fern remained on the farm for a short time and then moved to the Good Samaritan Village in Hastings, Nebraska. From there she moved to Bellevue, and now resides at Hillcrest Care Center in that city. The farm is now the home of a grandson, Leslie Beck. *Submitted by Viola Beck*

HAROLD L. BECK FAMILY

Harold Lavern Beck was born on a farm northwest of Clarks, in the Pleasant Hill-Pierce Chapel community, son of David and Fern Trullinger Beck. Harold grew to manhood in this neighborhood and received his education at the Pleasant Hill School. He had the distinction of being the only student to start and complete his full twelve years of study at this school. In his youth, Harold enjoyed the game of baseball, and played on the Pleasant Hill team all through school.

He started a farming-livestock operation in his early teens. In addition to this operation, Harold held a clerical position in the office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration for a number of years. It was here he met his future wife, Viola Tyler, who held a secretarial position in this organization for more than four years.

In 1941 Harold enlisted in the U.S. Army, the first volunteer in Merrick County, and served three years.

In May, 1942, he was married to Viola Marie Tyler, daughter of Leslie and Jessie Tyler, also of the Clarks area. After Harold's army service he returned to Clarks, and he and his wife purchased a farm from his grandfather, James Trullinger, located two miles west of Clarks. There were five children born to them: Leslie, Lynn, Shannon, Shelli and Sherilyn. Leslie and family live on a farm three miles west of Clarks, Lynn and family reside in Natal, Brazil (his wife being a native of Brazil), Shannon (Zegar) and family reside on a farm northwest of Clarks, Shelli, (Mrs. Robert Voichoskie) lives on a farm north of Havens near Silver Creek, and Sherilyn (Mrs. Dennis Stark) resides in Grand Island.

Harold was a true conservationist and spent his life improving his environment. He was always interested in acquiring a piece of worn-out land to see how quickly he could reclaim and bring it to top production. He was especially interested in water conservation, and did a great deal of work on irrigation development.

Harold purchased some land-leveling equipment in the early fifties and established a business in irrigation development, which he and his sons operated for seventeen years in addition to their farming operation.

George Roumpf, a close neighbor and friend, worked with the Beck family for more than thirty-five years in their farming and land leveling operation.

As the family grew up and eventually started to take over some of the responsibilities, Harold and Viola greatly enjoyed traveling. They had travelled all fifty states, most of them several times, and also had toured in Mexico, Central America, Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific Islands, part of France, and South Africa. Again, their interest was primarily centered around the agricultural aspects of these places. One of the things they enjoyed most was traveling to various parts of the United States to pick and process whatever kind of fruit they found to be in season, and bringing home a supply to their families and friends. They found many friends with a common agricultural interest.

One of the more satisfying family projects was the construction of a large swimming pool in their backyard. It was maintained for eighteen years for the use of all the family and community.

In 1973, the family built and equipped a recreational facility on their farm, known as "The 'Ol Barn", which is meant to serve their friends and community for a wide variety of social activities.

In later years, Harold and Viola have spent their winter months in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, near McAllen. Again, they have been particularly interested in the agricultural versatility and development of this rich and fertile area.

Harold and Viola are members of the Pierce Chapel rural church.

In March, 1980, Harold lost his life to the dreaded disease of lung cancer. *Submitted by Viola Beck*

JAMES EARL & NEVA BECK

Earl Beck was born near Marshfield, Missouri, and went to Merrick County about 1916. He worked as a farm hand until U.S. entered World War One. He went to Omaha to enlist in the Navy but was told by the recruiter that he was too short for the Navy. The Army recruiter across the hall overheard the conversation and told him the Army would take him. Earl spent several months in France in combat and was in the occupation forces until 1919.

He returned to Merrick County. In 1923 Earl and Neva Rice were married. Neva was the daughter of George and Lillie Rice, and a native of Merrick County. They made their home in the County for a few years before moving to Denver. After about ten years in Colorado, they went to the Portland, Oregon area. In Denver, Earl worked for a florist. After moving to Portland, he worked at the sheet metal trade. A hobby was rose gardening.

Earl was a small man, but exceptionally wiry and quick. Lisle Ferris remarked that it irritated him when Earl left for town or to see his girl in the middle of the afternoon. After thinking it over, Lisle decided it was all right, for he had had some hired men who could not haul as much hay working till dark as Earl did by midafternoon. The stories told about his mischievous stunts and sayings would make an interesting book.

Neva died several years ago and Earl in 1980. They had one daughter and four grandchildren. *Submitted by Donald Beck*

JOE BECK FAMILY

I (Mrs. Joe Beck) am the former Rosalie Brand. My parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brand of Silver Creek. I was born May 22, 1955, at Stromsburg, Nebraska, and have lived all my life in the Silver Creek community except for a brief period in Grand Island. I have one sister and four brothers, and am the youngest member of my family. I started to school as a kindergarten pupil at the Silver Creek Public School and in 1973 received my high school diploma from that school. While in school, I was active in extra-curricular activities such as volleyball, track, music, pep club, cheerleading and other activities. I also became a Christian during my teen years, and was active in the special services given by our teen church group under the instruction of Rev. Larry Sachau.

In 1974, I graduated from Grand Island School of Business. I worked at the Lutheran Hospital as an admittance clerk while attending school and for two months after finishing school. During May of 1974, I took employment as an insurance secretary for Drs. Dalton & Bass in Genoa, Nebraska, at which time I moved back to Silver Creek. At the present time I work occasionally as a substitute, and enjoy my work.



Joe Beck Family

My husband, Joe, moved with his parents (Mr. and Mrs. Dale Beck) to the Silver Creek area in 1964 and entered the Silver Creek school as a fourth grade student. (Part of his childhood is given in the history of his parents in this book.) We were classmates until our high school graduation. Joe enjoyed horseback riding as he was growing up, along with the rest of his family. He also thoroughly enjoyed the sports of football and basketball while in school, and today is an avid TV sports spectator.

Joe and I were married on October 25, 1975, at the Silver Creek Methodist church by Rev. Ed Morrison. We are both active members of that church, having been Teen Church sponsors, served on administrative board, and I am presently teaching a Sunday School class.

We live a little over five miles north of Silver Creek along highway #39, in the home which we built while putting together wedding plans. We had people tell us that if we could build a house and plan a wedding at the same time, our marriage could survive anything. There were certain instances when we certainly understood what they meant!

Joe is a member of the Bar Lazy D partnership with his father and brother. They have a farming-ranching operation. Joe thoroughly enjoys what he is doing. He is fortunate that his occupation is also his hobby. Our home is located on this ranch.

We have two lovely daughters. Jody Marie is a busy, inquisitive four-year-old, having been born February 7, 1977. Her younger sister, Gayle Dawn, is an active one year old whose birth date is November 28, 1979.

Activities which we enjoy include an occasional skiing trip, horseback riding, visiting friends and relatives. Our family is close to one another. We feel fortunate that we are friends as well as relatives. *By Rosalie Beck*

LESLIE & JULIA BECK

Charles Leslie and Julia Hathaway Beck were residents of the Fairview neighborhood a number of years before their marriage in 1913, and were active in church and social affairs of the community. After their marriage they settled on a small farm in

Webster County, Missouri. In 1916 they returned to Merrick County with their two children, Juanita and Donald, and helped farm the James Hathaway place until the spring of 1919. They then returned to their Ozarks farm where they spent the remainder of their lives. While in Nebraska a second son, Warren, was born and a few years later in Missouri a second daughter, Marjorie, was born.

Leslie was born January 4, 1883, in Edgar County, Illinois. In 1891 he moved with his parents, George S. and Charlotte Entler Beck, to Webster County, Missouri. In 1906 he went to Merrick County, Nebraska, for employment as a farm hand for Jacob Weber and later for Joe Emmert and Lloyd Willeman, as well as others in the Fairview neighborhood. He had not completed grade school education because of his mother's ill health and the need for his help at home. He was fond of reading and would challenge anyone at spelling or ciphering. He also liked to write, and became widely known in both Merrick and Webster counties by the news columns he wrote for the local papers. For the Central City paper he wrote "Sandburs", and in Missouri he called his news "Bracken Boomerangs by Uncle Perry Gorrick". News was sometimes embellished, to the enjoyment of his readers. Leslie was one of the pioneers in the dairy industry in the Webster County area, although never dairying on a large scale, and he took great pride in his Registered Jerseys.



Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Beck — 1943

Julia was the daughter of James and Ella Bird Hathaway and was born January 24, 1886, in Harrison County, Iowa. She moved with her parents to Merrick County in 1905. When she graduated from Woodbine Normal in Iowa, she was too young to teach in that state, so taught her first term at Silver Lake school near Hawley, Minnesota. Her second term was in 1904 at a rural school east of Modale, Iowa, followed by seven terms in Merrick County which were: District #21 (Brown) 1905-06, 1906-07, and 1907-08; Gardner 1908-09; Brown 1909-10 and 1910-11; and Meade 1911-12. The last term in her teaching career was in 1920-21 at the Black Oak School adjacent to her home in Missouri with two of her own children, Juanita and Donald, as pupils. She was almost 94 when her death occurred in 1979. Leslie preceded her in death in 1953. *Submitted by Donald Beck*

RAYMOND BECK FAMILY

(Portion of a poem written in 1977 by Mrs. Dale Beck)

You, Raymond, were born early in May of eighteen hundred ninety-seven.
Parents, Anna (Lumadue) and John gladly welcomed their bundle from heaven.



Raymond Beck Family — 1974
Back l-r — Dale, Robert, Phil, Roger, Deryel. **Front l-r** — Raymond, Elsie, Doris and Wesley.

One sister, Iva, with three brothers, Dave, Frank, and Walter, also greeted you.
Soon you had twin brother and sister, Lizzie and Leslie, and later Zoa, too.
Three youngest to join the family making eleven were Teddy, Albert, Ruth.
Off to Twenty-Five and Pleasant Hill Schools you went to learn of things the truth.
Church was held, and you attended with your family at the Pleasant Hill School also,
Then later Pierce Chapel became your church where you still have membership,
We know that to you Bill Bone as well as Joe Pesak is a familiar name,
Also Roy Miller and Stecker, too, who in the ring could not put you to shame
For as wrestler you really did quite well and your opponents would agree;
Crowds filled places such as Empress and Royal Theatres your matches for to see.
Fell in love and in nineteen twenty-one took Ruth Wolfe as your wife to be.
Then when your first born child, Doris, arrived, you became family.
In the twenties and thirties six bouncing boys appeared to call you dad.
Wesley, Dale, Roger, Philip, Deryel, Robert — sometimes good and sometimes bad.
Father of the bride you became in nineteen forty and gained another son.
Later when their baby boy arrived the title of first time proud grandpa you won.
Ruth's death in nineteen forty-seven left you with five sons at home with you,
Duties were shared with Doris, Lizzie, and Ruth also helping things to do.
Four sons served in the army, but thankfully were returned safely to your door.
All six sons found the girl of their dreams, thus giving you daughters galore.
T'was on the eighth of February, nineteen fifty, Elsie Campbell became your wife,
Now we all know the years of happiness this has added to your life.
Grandchildren arrived for many years until thirty-three is the number at present —
Oh, how these little ones have added joy and helped make your life more pleasant.
Doris's and Phil's families are the only two who have lived out of the state.
In California and Arizona so when each returned it was a happy date.
Eighteen is the number who now happily can claim you as their great grandpa.
The oldest was born in sixty-seven and the youngest this March whom you just saw.
(1980 insert: great-grandchildren now number 23)
In different homes and on different farms you have lived but all in Merrick County —
Three farms in Clarks area, one farm and three homes at Central City, we see.
The people you've known, the family you've loved, the places you've lived and the things you've done —
They are all a part of this grand eighty years made up of love, joy, work, pain, and fun. *Submitted by Mrs. Dale Beck*

ROGER C. BECK FAMILY

Roger, son of Raymond and Ruth (Wolfe) Beck was born in Merrick County. I, Mildred, daughter of Owen and Gladys (Cremeen) John was from Valley County — (moved to Merrick County at age 3½). We lived as neighbors in childhood near Central City, Nebraska. Roger and I met again later at Havens roller skating rink, and four years later we were united in marriage at the Methodist Church at Lexington, Nebraska, March 12, 1949.

Roger started farming with an IHC tractor, and we resided with his father near Clarks a year. (I baked bread a dime a loaf.) With our oldest son, John, quite small, we set up housekeeping at the Sampson farm west of Clarks. Plumbing, painting, wallpapering, raising chickens, and gardening were part of every spring. Lots of haying was done, and remembering the "meals in the fields day" was a chore. (TV came into view). In 1951 to fall of 1953, we rented the home Beck farm near District #24, where our second son, Jerry, was born. We attended the Clarks Methodist Church — where all our children were baptized. We enjoyed activities such as family gatherings, card games, band concerts, horseshows, Memorial Day Picnics, Burwell Rodeo, County Fairs, river swimming, hunting, and birthday parties with homemade ice-cream. With horses a hobby, our boys received their first pony for Christmas.



Roger C. Beck Family — 1961

Winter of 1954, we purchased our first acreage (Putman) on the west edge of Clarks. We appreciated our closest neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Stromberg and family. More haying, land leveling, corn shelling, and driving school bus helped finance our farm. (These years we bought groceries with eggs and cream checks)! Potato chips were really a treat, and wash days took all day! We were proud of our new 1956 teal-blue and white Chevy car.

Spring of 1957 a third child, Charlene, was born. Our children had their usual childhood diseases, and pets to be their company. (Rabbits, guinea pigs, orphan lambs, piglets, ducks, cats, horses, and a favorite dog named "Skip".

School years and traveling very far was a treat. We enjoyed a trip to Wyoming. These years we remember to be wet.

Being a family interested in the 4-H program, we became involved. Spring of 1962 brought us a new experience, to Holt County near O'Neill, Nebraska. Meeting with new neighbors and friends, we became assistant leaders in the 4-H Horse and Range projects. We will always remember our first train trip to California the Christmas of 1963, leaving our ranch chores with neighbor Louie. At the opportunity of resale of our ranch in 1964, we purchased (where we now reside) the farm east of Central City. A new home was a big project for the summer months, but we hadn't lost our interest in horses. We (with assistance of Wayne Burbank) started the first 4-H horse project in Merrick County. Remember the flood year, it rained four to five nights hard. Road ditches were full. I used to like to hear the frogs croak! Our children attended country and high school activities, winning and losing at County Fairs, State Fairs, Rodeos, and Ak-Sar-Ben. We have quite a collection of trophies. Remembering the special year 1970, we joined the Platte Valley Wranglers Saddle Club, in camping and riding our horses to Burwell, and Roger making a TV commercial.

Graduations and college years have come and gone all too fast. We have enjoyed the traditional turkey dinners on Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. Drawing names for Christmas Holidays and having Santa arrive seemed to have its remembrances. We can chuckle yet today as to who might have the best Christmas tree in mind. It took us all! Playing monopoly, puzzles, and playing in the snow were our pastime fun in winter months. Candies and popcorn were enjoyed by all. The family favorite breakfast has been furters with homemade syrup.

John and Jerry are farming, and Charlene lives in Lincoln, working at the Lincoln Regional Center. We are enjoying our three grandchildren, Jason, eight years, Jennifer, six years and Joshua one and one-half years. Traveling the last four years has been exciting, but with farming we look forward to each spring, summer, fall, and winter.

With Thoughts Everlasting: "May the New Year bring health, love, money, and the time to enjoy them." *Written by Mildred I. Beck*

CARL BEED FAMILY

Carl and I met at Palmer Public Schools in 1961, which we both attended. Carl's family had just moved to Palmer. Originally they had lived in Meadow Grove and Tilden, Nebraska. His grandparents, Charles and Cora Bell Verplank Beed, were married around the Battle Creek, Nebraska, area. They were descendants of England and Holland.

Carl's immediate family consists of eight brothers and four sisters. All but two children live in Nebraska. His parents, Charles and Fern Spar Beed, live at Palmer where Charles retired from city police duty.

On February 21, 1969, Carl and I were married by H.H. Utterback at his home in Palmer. We lived in a little apartment in Palmer, as Carl worked for Hartford Service Station. We thought our hopes and dreams of a peaceful married life were shattered when Carl received his draft inductin papers in May of 1969. Carl left for the Army on June 21, 1969. He was stationed in Fort Lewis, Washington and Fort Sill, Oklahoma, before being sent to Augsburg, Germany, in November of 1969.



Carl Beed Family

Our son Matthew Carl was born November 25, 1969, two weeks after Carl had left for Germany. I spent time at Carl's parents home and at my parents, Carl and Louise Davison's, in Palmer while Carl was gone.

In April of 1970 Matthew and I flew to Germany to live with Carl. This was a very rewarding experience and a little boy grew to know both his father and mother together. We had to really pinch pennies, but we were happy just to be together.

February 1971 brought Matthew and myself back to Nebraska. Carl's discharge came in June 1971 and then we were a family again.

Carl started to work at Sperry New Holland in June 1971. He is a welder at the plant and has now been there over nine years.

On July 5, 1971, a welcome addition was made to our family, Michelle Louise was born. Matthew really enjoyed his new little sister. They have grown to be very close.

In 1974 we purchased a home on the north side of Palmer. Moving day was very exciting. The children were very young, but very excited about their own rooms and new home.

The next year Matthew started to school. It was a sad day for mother, but exciting for Matthew. The hardest time yet was the next fall when Michelle started to school.

Our family attends the United Methodist Church at Palmer. Carl and I also belong to the American Legion Post #120 of Palmer. For hobbies Carl enjoys carpentry work, fishing and archery deer hunting. He used his skill in carpentry two years ago when we added two bedrooms onto our home. I enjoy doing latch hook rugs and sewing along with my job as a sales clerk for J.C. Penney's in Grand Island.

Our family truly loves living in Merrick County and in Palmer. The small town is perfect for raising a family and quiet comfortable living. *Bonnie (Mrs. Carl) Beed*

FLOYD BELLE FAMILY

Floyd Belle was born September 10, 1911 to John and Lottie Belle in Nance County on a farm near Belgrade, Nebraska, where they resided till March 1930 when they moved to Central City.

Soon after moving there he met me, Edna Fullington, daughter of Joe and Hattie Fullington. After three years of courtship we were married January 4, 1933. We worked for Heber Hord for a few years and we lived in the apartment over their garage. Our son, Carrol, was born there October 30, 1937.

In September 1940 we moved to Hamburg, Iowa and worked at the Butler Dairy for thirteen years.

We lived between the Missouri and Nishnabotna Rivers. We experienced many floods and had to move from our home several times. They had to deliver some of the milk in a boat. Then take the rest to the milk truck that was parked on higher ground. After the new dikes were built it didn't flood very often.

Hamburg was a nice, friendly town to live in and we liked it very much. Our daughter, Connie Jo, was born there September 5, 1947.

After we left the dairy we farmed for several years. One of our early crops was growing peas for the canning factory in Nebraska City. It was quite an interesting project. After we quit farming we moved to town. Floyd worked in a locker plant.

I worked in the school cafeteria seventeen years. It was very interesting work. Both of our children graduated from the Hamburg High School.

Carrol Belle and Ruth Darlene Wise were married, June 20, 1959, at the Church of Christ Hamburg, Iowa. They had four daughters, Deborah Marie, born November 11, 1960, Tamara Jo, born July 16, 1963, Teressa Ann, born October 1, 1965 and Angela Rae, born January 31, 1969. Angela died February 2, 1969.

Connie Jo Belle and Frederick Schenk, Jr. were married, August 2, 1969, at the First Christian Church at Central City, Nebraska. They have two children, Michael Frederick, born August 2, 1971, and Kimberly Kay, born July 23, 1973.

We have enjoyed several vacations to Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Salt Lake City, Yellowstone and many more points of interest. We always went as a family.

We enjoyed taking active part in the church work of the Presbyterian Church which we were members of.

In 1966 Floyd sold his share of the locker and started working as Over-all Foreman for the city.



Floyd, Edna, Connie and Carrol Belle — 1969

He worked until August 15, 1973, when he was killed instantly in a tractor accident while mowing weeds for the city. It was a shock to the family and community. He was a steady and faithful worker. The city had the flag half mast for him fifteen days.

After Floyd's death I sold our home in Hamburg and moved back to Central City, where I was born and raised, so I could be close to my daughter, Mrs. Fred Schenk, Jr., and family, also my sisters and other relatives.

Our son, Carrol, and family live in Clackamas, Oregon. I took my first air flight to visit them and see my oldest granddaughter, Deborah, graduate from high school. *By Mrs. Floyd Belle*

JOHN & LOTTIE BELLE

Lottie Sophia Burr was born at Palmyra, New York 1 June 1883. She was one of eight children of Henry and Charlotte Barnes Burr. Her parents both died when the children were young. The oldest daughter and her husband took care of the other children. Lottie was the only member of the family to come "West" to live. She remained close to her family through letters and visits. She was the last living child or as she aptly said "the last leaf on the tree."

Lottie fished in the Erie Canal as a child and had fond memories of attending the Pan American Exposition held in Buffalo, New York in 1901. She was an early telephone operator and switchboard supervisor, beginning prior to 1905, in Syracuse, New York.

John Henry Belle was born in Canada 20 April 1874. His parents were Joseph and Matilda Cattround Leaf.

Lottie and John celebrated their wedding 1 June 1908. They came by train to Nance County, Nebraska in the spring of 1909. With them were John's daughters Hazel Marie and Beatrice Veta.

John worked on the Hadfield and Morrison Ranches. In 1911 he began farming in Loup Ferry and Timber Creek Townships.



John and Lottie Belle Family
Rheta, Marion, Hazel, Beatrice. **Front** — Floyd, John, Lottie.

Three children were born to the Belles: Marian Kathryn (1910) married Earl Fullington; Floyd Arthur (1911) married Edna Fullington; and Rheta Agnes (1915) married Woodrow Dotson. Hazel (1902) married Frank Halpin and Beatrice (1905) married Ernest Sundermann.

John was known in the neighborhood for his "readings" of poetry, singing and acting at literary societies.

Lottie was often called on to administer to the sick and to serve as a mid-wife.

The Belles had a great love of horses.

In 1930 the Belles moved to Central City. They lived in the College Section where they operated a truck farm selling fresh vegetables and melons. In 1934 they moved into town. Although a semi-invalid John raised a fine productive garden.

Lottie told of being employed in the W.P.A. program. She sewed baby clothes and overalls. The fabric came precut and the sewing group worked in the basement of Hards Public Library.

Mr. Belle was suffering from diabetes and died 27 March 1944. After John's death Lottie worked as a live-in practical nurse. In the late 1940's she again "set up housekeeping" in an apartment. She lived alone until at age ninety-three her health would no longer permit it. Her last four years were spent as a resident of Litzenberg L.T.C. She died 13 July 1980

at the age of ninety-seven years.

Lottie was "Grandma Belle" to not only her five children's descendants but to many others. She had a twinkle in her eye and a ready smile. Her quick wit was always with her and of course she made the best cookies, ever!

On her ninetieth birthday she was asked by a nine year old great-grandson, "Isn't it boring to be ninety years old?" Her reply, "I have lived from horse and buggy days to see a man walk on the moon — I can assure you it hasn't been boring!" *Submitted by Rheta Dotson, daughter and Nancy B. Johnson, granddaughter*

HENRY & MINNIE BELTNER

Henry W. Beltner was born February 2, 1862 in Hannover, Germany. He came over to the United States and worked as a farm hand in the Chapman area. He married and had three children, Fred Beltner, Herman Beltner and Lena Grotzy now all deceased. His first wife passed away and on October 6, 1907 he and Minnie C. Herre were married. They purchased a farm south and west of Chapman. Mr. Beltner was the township overseer in Chapman township. He loved horses and used them in his farm operations. Mrs. Beltner's nephew came over from Germany to assist with the farming operations when Mr. Beltner's health failed. Mr. Beltner passed away September 24, 1924 at the age of sixty-two



Beltner Family
Effie, Henry, Minnie and Effie's daughter

years.

Minne Caroline Beltner was born March 2, 1882 to Heinrich and Frederika (Von Roden) Herre in Germany. At the age of 24, she came with relatives to the United States establishing her residence in Nebraska. After Mr. Beltner's death, she continued to live on the farm with her nephew William Schuette. In her later years she lived in Chapman and Grand Island.

She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church and was a member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Grand Island and a member of the Senior Aid. She enjoyed gardening and flowers. She was known by many neighbors and friends as "Aunt Minnie".

She passed away May 4, 1969 in Grand Island. *Submitted by Lenora Schuette*

JACOB C. BENNER

Jacob C. Benner was born on a farm Southwest of Central City, Nebraska on December 18, 1882 to Lewis and Anna (Hilton) Benner. He died January 20th, 1969.

June 28, 1916, he married Jennie L. Gaw. They were the parents of two children — Alice Hoback and Charles Benner. Mrs. Benner died in March, 1948.

He farmed until the early 1950's when his son took over the farming operation. Mr. Benner moved into Central City in 1957 where he lived until his death.

He attended District #48 School. He had five sisters — Mary Cox, Gertrude Bowers, Lena Margaret and Ester Benner.

In 1976, the Benner farm was given the Ak Sar Ben Award for being in the family for 100 years. Charles bought the Kate Smith farm and also the Hilton Homestead in 1973. *Submitted by Doris Benner*

DONALD & SHIRLEY BERG

Donald Berg was raised near Elm Creek, Nebraska. His parents were Ernest and Mildred (Einspah) Berg. Donald attended the elementary schools and high school in Overton. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church. After the death of his father, members of the family came to Grand Island, Nebraska.



Donald Berg Family —
Back l-r — Bradley, Shirley, Donald. **Front l-r** — Travis, Steven, Calvin.

Donald was employed at the Twin Rivers Egg Plant in Grand Island, Nebraska. In 1964, he began work at the Aluminum Supply Company in Grand Island which later joined Gifford Hill in Grand Island. He has been employed there for sixteen years.

In 1965, he married Shirley Schuette, the daughter of William and Lenora (Schultz) Schuette. Shirley attended Merrick District 2 and graduated from the Grand Island Senior High School and The Grand Island Business College.

Donald and Shirley have four sons: Bradley was born June 12, 1967; Calvin was born March 3, 1969; Steven was born September 15, 1972; and Travis was born October 2, 1975. Bradley attended District #2 and is now a student in the Central City Middle School, Calvin and Steven also attend District #2. Travis attended the Head Start School in Central City the last seven months and will attend District #2 in September of 1981. The sons have all been baptized in the Messiah Lutheran Church in Grand Island where the family attends church and Sunday School. The sons attend Bible school each summer at the church. Bradley, Calvin and Steven are members of the Seven Plus 4-H Club.

Shirley has been baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church. She has taught Sunday School and has assisted with the Bible School a number of years. She joined the Merrick County Home Extension Club, the Sunshine Club in 1969, and has been a 4-H leader for five years. She has part time employment at the DJ Shop in Central City.

Donald and Shirley belonged to the Parents' Organization for the Merrick County Head Start and Shirley served as Secretary. They belong to the 89'ers Couples organization in the church. Donald has been on the Rural Fire Department Board since March 7, 1970.

The family reside west and south of Chapman. *Submitted by Shirley Berg*

BELL EDWARD BERRYMAN

Mrs. Martha McAleer, granddaughter of Bell Edward Berryman, one of Central City's earliest pioneers, furnished the following facts as they were given in the *History of Nebraska*, published in 1912, as well as other important facts of interest pertaining to the Berryman history.

Bell Edward Berryman was a prominent businessman for many years and was known throughout Merrick County as a man of ability and straightforward principles.

The Berryman family and also the Bell family were of old English stock. James Berryman, a brother of Bell, settled in Merrick County in 1868, and put up one of the first buildings. Later, in 1871, James was joined by his brother, Bell, and the brothers established a partnership known as the J.H. Berryman and Brother Mercantile Business.

Father Marquette's first sermon in Lone Tree was preached in this building, and the first court to convene in Merrick County was also held there. The original building was used later in the Bell Berryman residence, a commodious two-story frame house.

In 1873, Bell Berryman returned to his native Kentucky where he married Ellen Riley at Owensboro. Immediately after the ceremony, the couple returned to Lone Tree (Central City) where they lived the rest of their lives. They were the parents of four children: William R., Clyde V., Mary Sue (who died in infancy), and Cary. Mrs. Berryman died in 1903.

After his wife's death, Mr. Bell Berryman retired, in 1905, from his mercantile business and entered the bee industry and bee supply trade, a business which he followed, although on a limited scale later on, until his death in 1940. Mr. Berryman also had real estate interests, owning several farms, and a large number of rental properties. One eighty-acre farm still remains in the family and is owned by Helen Lorraine Buffett, a granddaughter.

Mr. Berryman was a Mason. He received the fifty-year membership pin and also the pin recognizing the fact that he had been a member longer than any others. He was given full Masonic rites when he died.

Mr. Berryman's daughter, Cary, married Fred Herbert Guthrie. They became the parents of four daughters: Helen Lorraine Buffett, (Mrs. George Buffett), born in Duluth, Minnesota, and the mother of two: Barbara James, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and Roger Buffett, Madison, Wisconsin; Cynthia Bell, who was born in Omaha and who passed away in 1940; Virginia Cary Paine (Mrs. Russell D. Paine), born in Omaha. She had three sons: Donald R., Edison, Nebraska, Lt. Col. Robert G. Paine, Offut Air Force Base, Bellevue, Nebraska, and Douglas A., Omaha, Nebraska; Martha Louise McAleer, born in the same house as was her mother, was married to Francis Patrick McAleer, a local dentist. Their daughter, Kathleen Anne Davis, was born in 1947. She and her husband, Edward Davis, both teach in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. McAleer served in World War Two, practiced dentistry in Central City for nearly thirty-five years. He was a charter Sertoma member. Dr. McAleer died in 1975 at Bergen-Mercy Hospital in Omaha. He is buried in the Berryman family plot, as are Bell E. Berryman, his wife Ellen, their daughters Mary Sue and Cary, and their granddaughter, Cynthia.



Bell Berryman House Mr. Berryman in background

After her husband's death, Martha McAleer moved to the Sunset Manor Apartments in Central City. *Submitted by Martha McAleer*

JAMES H. BERRYMAN

Shortly after his honorable discharge from the Union Army the 29th of November, 1965, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, James Hayden Berryman came to Merrick County and settled in what was then known as Lone Tree, Nebraska, subsequently Central City, 1866. He was born near Hartford, Kentucky, June 20, 1837. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in the Southern Army and served under General J.C. Breckenridge until he was captured at the battle of Five Forks, Virginia. He was taken to the Rock Island prison in Illinois where he was kept prisoner twelve-eighteen months, when he enlisted in the Union Army and was sent west to guard the frontier. At the close of the war he lived for a brief time at Milford, then came to Lone Tree where he engaged in the mercantile business.

He erected the first frame building, aside from the depot and section house. He built near these two buildings, and his combined residence and business quarters became at first the meeting place for law, circuit riders, and social events. In this building was held the first session of District Court, in charge of Judge Crounse.

James Berryman was married in 1865 to Miss Mary Comstock, who died a short time after marriage. In 1870 he married, in Omaha, Nebraska, Miss Kate Howsley, daughter of Dr. Wm. McNear Howsley and Ann Hardin of Hardin County, Kentucky. To this union, three children were born: Minnie Ola June 15, 1872, Mabel June 25, 1875 and Karl Hardin March 12, 1878. Karl died June 21, 1882, at the age of four years. James' wife, Kate, died September 27, 1878. In 1879 he married Kate's sister, Amanda Lutetia Howsley, to which union two children were born, Kate Lillian July 20, 1880, and James Dana March 3, 1884.

The mother of Kate and Amanda, Ann Hardin Howsley, lived in the Berryman household the later years of her life and died at Central City August 17, 1899. The Howsleys had emigrated to Leavenworth, Kansas, sometime after the Civil War. William was an M.D. but became very interested in horticulture during his later years. "September 23, 1905, Mabel married George J. Eoff in Central City."

G.E. Persinger in his, *History of Merrick County,* describes the Berryman house in detail. James Berryman was actively associated with the early development of the county. Since settling there he continuously engaged in the mercantile business, a portion of the time in partnership with his brother, Bell E. and part of the time independently.

Early in life James joined the Methodist church, but in 1890 he became a member of the Friends' Church. He was faithful and regular in the performance of his religious duties . . . He was a charter member of the Masonic Lodge in Central City and I believe it early met in the Berryman Store Building. He saw the passing of the era of the stage coach and the laying of the rails for the Union Pacific Trans-Continental Railroad. Ironically, he was killed by one of the trains while crossing the tracks, carefully watching one and not seeing one switching. This was January 17, 1905. He was sixty-seven years old. The graves are in the family plot in the Central City Cemetery.

Remembering, like a telescope, brings the distant near. *By Evelyn Eoff Sandall Grass*

FRANK KLAR BETTS

It was Grandpa and Grandma Betts who influenced my developing years. They never fully recovered from the tragedy of my father's early death as he was their only son and they had considerable pride in him and hopes for the future of his family. They welcomed me into their home in 1917 and I returned to Scudder School where I had started my education.

Grandma always had a witty saying to emphasize life's truisms and Grandpa reinforced her teachings with his emphasis on justice, honesty and right living. They were faithful members of the Pierce Chapel church and were one of the families instrumental in having the church moved the four miles to the northeast to its present location across the road from the cemetery.

From them I learned to be involved in community affairs for they believed life could be better for everyone if efforts were made to improve it. So as I reached adulthood I began to serve on various boards. These experiences broadened my outlook and enriched my life whether it was the local school board in District #7 on which I served nearly twenty years or those beyond the neighborhood. I became involved at its beginnings in 1933 with the farm program which has evolved into the ASCS and served on the county board for quite a number of years. I was a member of the county Soil Conservation Service board from 1951 to 1960. Probably the most challenging and equally rewarding was the "Elevator" board of the Farmers Cooperative Association as we farmers turned directors organized a new grain, feed and fertilizer business during the 1950's. The Coop bought an old elevator and built grain storage, including the flat storage south of the highway in Clarks and the cement tube facility along the railroad track and developed the business from a volume of a few thousand dollars to more than a million in about a decade. I am continuing to serve on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Clarks at the present time.



Frank K. and Rose Betts

On September 15, 1965 I married Rose (Shepherd) Colby and we have since lived in Clarks, though I continued to farm until 1973. In 1966 we purchased a newly built house from the Flora Ferguson estate. In June 1967 the infamous "100 year" flood wiped out the plantings that were there and we have since developed the large yard into a pleasant place to spend retirement years. We stay as involved as possible in church (United Methodist), the Lions Club (my membership exceeds 35 years), Masonic Lodge and Shrine, Eastern Star and Senior Citizens. *Submitted by Frank Klar Betts*

STANLEY & OPAL BICE

Fifty years ago on July 19, 1931, Stanley B. Bice and Opal Daniels eloped and were secretly married in the Methodist Church in Papillion, Nebraska. They were married by Reverend John Hall who in a few months came to Central City and served as pastor of the Methodist Church.

We announced our marriage on Stanley's birthday, October 17, 1931.

Stanley is the son of William H. Bice and Etta Campbell Bice. He has a brother Lawrence S. of Paradise, California and a sister Ethel Bice Tilley of Grand Island.

My parents were B.D. Daniels and Emily Roark Daniels and I have a brother, Frank Newell of Omaha.

We started married life on the Bice family farm west of Central City. Due to the drought and depression it was necessary to change our livelihood. Stanley enrolled at the School of Welding at Lincoln, Nebraska and worked at the Arrow Aircraft Factory. He also was employed at the L.L. Haddix Welding shop until 1942 when he worked at the Cornhusker Army Ordinance Plant in Grand Island. During the war he was employed in war work in several states. After the war we located in Denver, Colorado where we lived thirty-two years, until Stanley retired in 1975.



Stanley and Opal Bice

We have one son, Thomas Newell. He married Marilanne Schlupp and they have two children, Melissa Ann and James David.

Stanley worked in heating and air conditioning and was in charge of installing heating and air conditioning in large office buildings and apartment buildings. He also taught classes for eleven years in the Apprenticeship School of Pipefitting, Local Union 208, Denver.

We came to Central City in May, 1978, to attend my fifty year class reunion. While here, the Gary Webster home, probably better known as the George Locke house, was for sale. I had always admired the house as a child, so we bought it and moved from Denver in August.

We've been very happy living in our home town, renewing old acquaintances and making new friends. We have done lots of traveling but Central City seemed to be the place we liked best. We are very happy "to walk now where we once ran as children."

We are active members of the Christian Church. Stanley reads, gardens and golfs and looks forward to our next trip.

I enjoy music, reading, knitting, needlepointing, and crossword puzzles. We both keep busy.

Our son Thomas and his wife Marilanne have been in the antique business in Denver for seven years. They have a store in Denver and do refinishing and restoring, and also do shows in a number of states. Just recently they bought the former Elgin White house and have moved to Central City. They are also conducting their business from this area. Their moving to this area is one of the happy occasions we've had in recent years. It is good to have our family together again. *Submitted by Opal D. Bice*

WILLIAM & ETTA BICE

William H. Bice was the son of Jeremiah and Irene Bice and was born July 21, 1860 at Schenectedy, New York.

Jeremiah Bice was the son of Joshua Bice who was born in the late 1700's in New York State.

Jeremiah and his family immigrated to the state of Iowa in the 1870's and later came to Merrick County where he bought a farm north of Chapman. A son, James Ozra, also farmed in that area.

William Henry Bice followed in April of 1884 where he farmed and taught school that winter in District #32.

He married Anna McQuiston at Boone County, Iowa, December 28, 1887 and they made their home in Merrick County. He bought his father's farm but later sold it and bought the 160 acres 4½ miles north east of Chapman in 1903. He also taught school in District #39 which was on the Bice property.

Anna died in childbirth in May of 1889.

William Bice married Etta V. Campbell March 9, 1892 at Palmer, Nebraska. To this union was born Lawrence S. Bice, Ethel Bice Tilley, and Stanley B. Bice.

Mr. Bice attended Grand Island Business College. During the ensuing years he attended many Lyceum and Literary Societies and was known as a great debater in the area. He was also an excellent sprinter and took many prizes at get-togethers in the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Bice lived on the home place until his death in 1944, except for ten years spent in Central City.



William and Etta Bice
50 Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Bice were active members of the Chapman Baptist Church. They organized a Sunday school which was held in District #39 school house. He was instrumental in the building of one of the first square school buildings in the county. In 1914 he built a large farm house which was one of the first in the area to have indoor plumbing, central heating and Delco electricity.

Lawrence Bice lived there and farmed with his father. Later Stanley Bice farmed the ground. In 1937 Ethel and Ralph Tilley moved there and farmed until it was sold in 1950.

The Bices were lovers of fruit and planted a large orchard and vineyard, and strawberry bed which supplied fruit in the area for a good many years.

Among Mr. Bice's hobbies was raising bees and many people were repaid for their kindnesses in honey.

At this time, Lawrence S. Bice and wife Dorothy are in Paradise, California.

Ethel Bice Tilley and husband Ralph live in Grand Island.

Stanley B. Bice and wife Opal live in Central City.

There are five grandsons, Larry, Boyd and Roger Bice; Donald and Loran Tilley and Thomas Bice.

Mr. and Mrs. Bice are buried in the Chapman Cemetery. *Submitted by Ethel Bice Tilley and Stanley B. Bice*

BICE — TILLEY

Ethel Bice is the daughter of the late William H. and Etta Campbell Bice and was born near Chapman in 1901. She has two brothers, Lawrence S. of Paradise, California and Stanley B. of Central City. She married Ralph W. Tilley in 1929.

Ralph Tilley is the son of the late Will F. and Floy S. Wilcox Tilley and was born in 1902 near Grand Island. He has a brother, George, living in Grand Island and a sister, Vera Tilley Nolte in Savannah, Missouri, a sister Mildred who is deceased.

Ethel and Ralph were married in 1929 and they have 2 sons; Donald was born in Alda, Nebraska, and Loran at Central City.

Ethel spent two years at Nebraska Central College Academy and finished high school in Central City. Ethel and Ralph both attended and graduated from Grand Island Baptist College. Two years later they were married at the Bice home in Central City. Ethel sold Compton Encyclopedias during summer vacations. They both taught high school in Chambers, Nebraska. Ralph was the Superintendent for five years. The next four years he was Superintendent at Alda, Nebraska. He also coached basketball.

While living in Alda, Donald was born. Ethel and Ralph were both active in church work, coached high school plays and led 4-H Clubs. They moved to Central City to the Bice farm. Ralph continued to lead 4-H Clubs and was Superintendent of the Chapman Sunday School for several years.

In 1940 they bought one thousand turkeys and had them ready for market when an early November blizzard killed five hundred of them. They raised turkeys commercially for several years.

Their second son Loran was born in 1942. Both Donald and Loran attended District #39 grade school.

In 1950 the family bought the Hall County Poor Farm and moved to Grand Island.

Donald graduated from G.I. High School in 1952 and went to Sioux Falls College for two years. To get special work, he attended and graduated from Nebraska U. While there he met his future wife, Gwyn Wynne. After their marriage, they moved to California where Donald entered Fuller Seminary. After two years, they went to Chicago where he graduated from Baptist Seminary. He served as pastor in several northern Kansas churches. They moved to eastern U.S. where he taught and studied before returning to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he is with the Nebraska Educational system. They have two children, Michael John and Michele.

Loran Tilley graduated from Grand Island High School and earned his B.S. degree at Sioux Falls College. He married Marlene Haase and they moved to Wyoming where he taught in the State Reformatory. They had two children, Todd and Ami Joe. This marriage broke up. Loran returned to Grand Island and later married Kay Wondercheck, who had three children from a previous marriage.

After Ethel and Ralph's retirement, they moved into the city. Loran and family live on the family farm. *Submitted by Ethel Tilley*

THE BITTINGER FAMILY

The earliest genealogical records of our family relate the birth of John Bittinger on November 3, 1817, in Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Located in the fertile Cumberland Valley, it was then (and is still today) the state's greatest apple and peach producing region.

John married Rebecca Kail, and to their union were born six sons — Dave, Charles Henry, Sam, Will, Fred and Frank. The Bittinger boys grew to manhood just as the Civil War raged at nearby Gettysburg. Chambersburg was occupied by the Southern forces three times. The last time ended in the burning of the city in 1864. Historians record the city also served as a base of operations for John Brown prior to the raid on Harper's Ferry. Perhaps these bloody battles induced second son Charles Henry to leave his native state. Together, he and his wife Anna Hittle Bittinger journeyed west by wagon train and arrived in Clarksville, Nebraska, in 1877. They homesteaded five miles west of the present town of Clarks on an eighty-acre claim. They planted many fruit trees on their land (shades of home.) The following record was taken from the June 4, 1880, Federal census: Bittinger, Charles Henry, age 35, occupation; farmers; Bittinger, Anna, age 35, occupation, keeping house; Bittinger, Walter F, age 2, son; Bittinger, Otis A., age 1, son.

(Daughter Mabel E. wasn't listed, as she was born later that year on October 22nd). Charles died in 1913, and Anna in 1917. They are buried in the Clarks Town Cemetery.



Margaret Hayes — Vinson Bittinger
April 1942

Otis Allen, second son of Charles and Anna was born December 9, 1878, on the family farm in Clarks. He married Fannie Bird of Clarks, in Fullerton, Nebraska, on January 1, 1908. Later that year he became owner of the Clarks Telephone Exchange and conducted that business for over forty years. Two children were born to them: Margaret (Mrs. Wayne Palmer of Sun City, Arizona) and a son, Vinson, of Clarks. Otis died at the age of 69 in 1948, and Fanny on October 6, 1956. Both are buried in the Clarks Village Cemetery.

On April 20, 1942, in Omaha, Nebraska, Vinson married Margaret Hayes from the Polk County area. Vinson spent from March 1943 until March 1946 in the U.S. Air Force, with fifteen months spent in Calcutta, India. Upon arrival home from the service, they took over owner-management of the Clarks Telephone Company. They are the parents of five children: Michael Vinson (wife Patricia of Central City, Nebraska), Patricia Carol (husband Greg of Lakewood, Colorado), Thomas Allen (wife Cherie of Lincoln, Nebraska), Mary Margaret (husband Lynn Boden of Omaha, Nebraska), Timothy Daniel (wife Cindy of Clarks, Nebraska).



3 Generation Ground Breaking
Clarks Telephone Co.
Vinson A. Bittinger — Grandfather Mike — Father, Mark — Son, also Tim — Son

Margaret and Vinson presently have 8 grandchildren: Scott, Jeff and Ric Cline (children of daughter Pat and husband Greg), Ann, Mark, Maureen, Kathleen and Michael (children of son Mike and wife Pat), Eric Boden (son of daughter Mary and husband Lynn), Mae Lynn (daughter of son Tim and wife Cindy).

Margaret and Vinson maintain the family home in Clarks, Nebraska. *Submitted by Margaret Bittinger*

M. V. BITTINGER FAMILY

On the morning of September 25, 1944, at St. Francis Hospital in Grand Island, Nebraska, Vinson and Margaret (Hayes) Bittinger became the parents of a son they named Michael Vinson. Margaret brought her child home to Clarks, Nebraska, (the new father, Vinson was overseas in the U.S. Army, stationed in India). Michael grew to manhood, graduated from Clarks High School in 1963, and attended Omaha's Creighton University. In 1966 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and three years later was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

During the evening of October 10, 1944 in the huge St. Francis Hospital in New York City, Ann (O'Shaughnessy) Salerno gave birth to her first-born, a daughter, she and husband Michael named Patricia Ann. Pat grew up in New York, graduated from St. Helena High School in 1962 and St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in 1966. In 1968 she moved to Hawaii to secure a position as staff RN working with victims of Hansen's Disease (leprosy.)

Pat and Mike met at a party in Honolulu and a few weeks later decided to get married. Pat left Hawaii and flew to New York to plan the wedding. Mike reported to his new assignment on board the USS Arcturus, stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. On a hot Friday morning, May 30, 1969 in the Church of the Incarnation, New York City, the couple were married. They resided in Manhattan's Sheraton Hotel and spent their weekend honeymoon enjoying New York City. Their first home together was 447 Pointer St., Norfolk, Virginia. Mike was discharged in 1970 and the young couple set out for home — Clarks, Nebraska. Pat recalls, "I saw myself as a pioneer traveling across the country in our 1969 Buick to a homestead in Nebraska, which was located somewhere west of New York."



Mr. and Mrs. M.V. Bittinger — 1969

In 1970 they purchased a home in Clarks where they built a sunken swimming pool in their spacious backyard. Mike was employed as Vice-President of Clarks Telephone Co. and served on both the town and school boards. For eight years he was emergency Medical Technician for the Clarks Rescue Unit. Pat worked as a staff nurse at Fullerton Memorial Hospital. They are the parents of five children: Ann nine years, Mark eight, Maureen six, Kathleen three and Michael David two.

In August 1979, Mike accepted a position as President of Central Cable Corporation and moved his family to Central City, purchasing a home in the Hensley Subdivision. Three Bittinger children attend Central City public school and the family attends St. Michael's Church. Mike, an avid golfer is a member of the Legion club, Sertoma Society and is on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He is also a Cub Scout leader. Pat is employed as a staff RN at Bethesda Care Center and is a member of Rural Nurses United and the League of Nebraska RN's. *Submitted by Pat Bittinger*

BLACK FAMILY

Earl Clifton Black and Bertha Peregrine Black were married in Fullerton, Nebraska, February 16, 1916. In 1918 they moved to Merrick County, settled in the Fairview Community on a farm five miles north and two west of Central City.

They brought with them, one year old Willard. In 1918 Winona was born and in 1921 another son, Merlin.



Earl and Bertha Black

The Black family were lifelong members of the Methodist Church. Their social life revolved around Fairview Methodist Church, District #18 school, and visits with neighbors.

In reading diaries kept by Bertha Black for forty-two years there is a reflection of the hard work that was done in the early years. They farmed with horses, milked cows, butchered their own beef and hogs, incubated eggs and raised chickens, picked corn by hand, made sausage and lard, canned beef and garden produce, made butter and baked bread. The children took turns operating the push pull washing machine.

In 1924, nineteen dozen eggs were sold for $3.84, wheat $1.40 a bushel, a check for thirty-one hogs was $1,002.99. This was much better than what was to follow in a few years.

Earl Black was one of the first farmers to try ditch irrigating his corn. This was manual labor but brought good results.

Summer evenings when chores were done Earl and his boys practiced baseball. This interest led to participation in the Saturday Baseball League. All around the county horses were unharnessed Saturday noon with the shout of "Play Ball". Sunday ball was frowned upon for many years but eventually won over.

Bertha's great love for music kept the family together singing and playing instruments. She sang in the church choir and played the piano, helped organize an orchestra of young people in the neighborhood. In her retirement years she composed music and taught her grandchildren to sing and play the piano. When thanked for babysitting with grandchildren her reply was always "Thank you for letting me keep them."

The Blacks retired to Central City in 1960. Bertha's poor health led to an early death on September 14, 1965.

Although missing his partner of forty-nine years Earl made the most of the fourteen years left to him. He enjoyed his home and kept it neat and clean and was proud of his cooking ability. He loved the family reunion times and visits with his daughter.

He enjoyed coming out to the farm and helping his sons. At the age of 83 he helped break to ride an Arabian horse. He was a daily visitor to the Senior Citizen Center playing pitch with great vim and vigor. He took great pleasure traveling with this group, the highlight being a trip to Hawaii with John Gorgen as his roommate.

Earl died March 7, 1979. Surviving him in 1981: Willard and Celia (McCollister) Black, Winona and Ivan King, Merlin and Lois (Cantrell) Black, eight grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren. One grandson Dale, son of Willard and Celia died November 4, 1979. *Submitted by Mrs. Willard (Celia) Black*

WILLARD & CELIA BLACK

If all goes as planned at the time of the writing of this book, Willard E. Black and Celia McCollister Black will celebrate their forty-fifth Wedding Anniversary on July 27, 1981. They were sweethearts in Central City High School.

Willard, the son of Earl and Bertha Peregrine Black, was born on a farm near Fullerton, Nebraska and moved with his parents to Merrick County in 1917 when he was one year old. Celia, the daughter of Milton and Alta Frink McCollister, was born on a farm near Goehner, Nebraska and moved with her family to Central City when she was a year old, in 1920.

Willard and Celia have lived the greatest part of their married life on a farm north of Central City. Willard and his brother Merlin formed a farming partnership after World War II, and are still in business together in 1981.

Willard and Celia are the parents of a son Dale, and two daughters, Linda and Jolene.

Dale married Donna Harris of Ogallala, Nebraska, and they are the parents of three daughters, Deidre, Danelle, and Devra. Dale received his Doctorate in Education from the University of Northern Colorado. He was a professor of Forensics at Hastings College at the time of his death November 4, 1979. Donna teaches children with learning disabilities in the Hastings school system. Danelle was named Miss National Teenager in 1980-81.

Linda married Dick Monson of Central City. They live in Loveland, Colorado with their son Jeff and daughter Megan. Dick owns his Hair Styling and Barber business in Loveland.

Jolene married Robert Vokoun of Pleasanton, Nebraska. They have two sons, Scott and Chad. Robert teaches Distributive Education in Grand Island Senior High, and Jolene is employed at First National Bank.

Willard and Celia have been lifelong members of the Methodist Church.
Since 1943 they have belonged to the Fairview United Methodist Church where they and their children have taken part in regular attendance and all other church activities.

Willard's hobbies are, "Grandfathering", bowling, golfing and planning travels for his retirement years.

Celia's hobbies are reading, and writing. She wrote a column titled "Black Bored" for the Central City paper for a number of years. She gives programs and book reviews for church and club groups.

The Blacks have belonged to a six-couple Pinochle group for over twenty-five years.

They plan in the near future to retire to Central City and enjoy being a part of their hometown, do some traveling, and spend time with their family. *Submitted by Willard and Celia Black*

ALBERT & MINNIE BLAUHORN

I was born September 30, 1897, son of Julius and Marie (Buss) Blauhorn, who came here from Germany in 1885.

My wife Minnie was born on October 14, 1896 to Joseph and Mary (Abel) Garrett. Her parents came



Albert Blauhorn Family — 50th Anniversary

from Ohio and Iowa to Nebraska.

Minnie attended District #55, Sunrise School. Each member of the family worked on the farm. There was a pond in the pasture that provided year-round entertainment, especially winter ice-skating for friends and family.

Before we were married Minnie worked for Perry's Bakery in Central City and for neighbors during the 1918 influenza epidemic.

I attended District #43. I also helped with many farm chores. When I was older, I worked for the other farm neighbors. I have always had a love for horses, and have had many good times riding them.

In 1919 I started to farm. After a three year courtship with Minnie in horse and buggy and Model T Ford, we were married on June 8, 1921. I built a new home for my bride on my farm four miles east of Palmer where we lived till 1964 when we sold the farm to a nephew. We then built a home in Central City where we now live.

Minnie and I have three daughters, Mrs. Buddy (Winona) Tuttle of Marquette, Mrs. John (Betty) Glause of Chapman and Mrs. Alton (Fern) Jacobsen of Hastings. We have two grandsons, seven granddaughters, seven great-grandsons and three great-granddaughters.

Minnie and I worked side by side on the farm shocking grain, picking corn by hand. We always had lots of chickens and milked cows by hand. We started farming with one-row equipment and on to two-row riding machinery. In 1939 we bought our first tractor, and in 1947 a bigger tractor, combine and corn-picker. When we retired, farmers were starting to use self-propelled equipment. For enjoyment I played on a Saturday baseball team. Minnie has always loved being a faithful worker in the missionary society. The 1929 depression and the drought of the thirties will always be remembered.

After moving to Central City, I worked a year as a reporter for the A.S.C.S., while Minnie settled in her new home. In 1966 we both went to work for Merrick Manor for seven years.

In June 1971, we had an open house celebration for our Golden Wedding at the Archer Zion United Methodist Church where we have been faithful members since 1927. We drive out each Sunday to attend the church we love. There are four generations of our family that belong to this church at this time.

Each Christmas we have a dinner for our daughters and their families who can attend. There are now thirty-four of us. The one tradition we hope our family will always remember is our Christmas devotions where each family participates. This is a meaningful time before our gift exchange.

Life has been good and for that we thank our God. *Submitted by Albert Blauhorn*

ERVIN & BONNIE BLAUHORN

Ervin Blauhorn was born near Palmer, Nebraska. He is the eldest of the seven children born to William and Anna Otto Blauhorn. He grew to manhood in the Palmer area and was educated in a rural school. He farmed with his father for a few years.

On December 1, 1941 he was inducted into the armed services. After receiving his basic training, he was stationed in England prior to the invasion of Normandy. He served with the 3rd Armored Division in campaigns that led through France, Belgium and Germany during World War II.

Ervin was discharged from the service after his return to the States in 1945. He soon went back to the farm.

Bonnie was born in Sioux City, Iowa. With her parents, she shortly moved to Valley, Nebraska.

She is the eldest child of Martin and Carrie McKnight Scharvin. She has one sister, Mrs. Gerhard (Evelyn) Bruns of Archer and one brother, Frank Scharvin of Oxford, Nebraska.

Bonnie has lived in the vicinity of Archer most of her life thus far. She graduated from the Archer High School in 1929. Later she received a B.A. degree from Nebraska Central College at Central City. She took some graduate work from the University of Nebraska.

On June 22, 1947 Ervin took Bonnie Scharvin as his bride. They moved to his farm north of Archer where they have shared the joys and also the concerns of rural life for many years.

Ervin has taken an active part in community affairs having served on the School Board, as a director of the Archer Bank, as a member of the Telephone Board, on the Noxious Weed Board and as Chairman of the Building Committee for the Archer Community Center. He has been a faithful member of the Methodist Church for over fifty years. He has been an active member of the American Legion for thirty-four years.

Bonnie has also been interested in the activities of her community. She has been a member of the Methodist Church for fifty years. She is an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma, a teachers' honorary society, also a member of Grand Island Retired Teachers' Association and of Nebraska State Teachers' Association. She enjoys social and extension club work.

Bonnie taught in schools of Merrick County for forty-five years. The last thirty-six years were spent as an instructor in the Archer Public School. She retired from teaching in 1976.

In 1967 the Blauhorns built a new home where they still reside although Ervin has recently retired from active farm work. *Submitted by Mrs. Ervin Blauhorn*



Ervin and Bonnie Blauhorn

JULIUS & MARIE BLAUHORN

Julius was born October 24, 1859 to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Blauhorn of Pommern, Germany. Marie Emma was born July 17, 1859 to Mr. and Mrs. Will Buss of Alt Starkow, Germany.

Julius served three years in the German Army and later worked at jobs that were available. Marie was born to a farm family. She helped on the farm and others when needed. Later Julius and Marie were married. Hearing about America and the wonderful opportunities, they decided to come here, for a better way of life, in 1885.



Mr. and Mrs. Julius Blauhorn

They arrived in Central City, then a small town. They went to work for a German couple near Archer, Mr. and Mrs. Schlueter who had also come from Germany. The wage was small, but much better than in Germany. Two children were born while at Schlueters.

In 1888 they had saved enough money to buy a homestead right in the Northwest Quarter, Midland Township, Section 6. Julius continued to work for others for a short time.

Soon after they came here they joined the Zion Evangelische Geminschaft (German) church now known as Zion United Methodist. There is now the fifth generation of their family attending this church.

The homestead had a three room house and small barn. Later they added four rooms on the house and built a cattle barn. In 1903 they built a horse barn. Father took great pride in his horses. Five children were born at their homestead.

In Germany it was customary for the girls to learn to run the spinning wheel, to spin wool into yarn and knit socks, mittens and sweaters, and to darn them

when worn places appeared. This was the one item Mother Blauhorn brought with her from Germany. We often saw her use it and her darning was so precise it was hardly noticeable.

As they bought more land and their children were able to help on the farm, they kept a herd of twenty-five to thirty milk cows and 200 laying hens. They had a barter system with the two stores and creamery in Archer. Hansen and Templin had the creamery. They collected cream on the routes with 300 gallon enclosed tanks built on a horse drawn vehicle. Goods such as groceries, kerosene, hardware and clothing could be purchased. At the end of the month if there was money left for the cream, eggs, and poultry they were paid or it was left for credit. There was a lot of labor exchange also.

In 1915 they retired to a new home in Archer. Father did some labor around town. Mother raised some chickens and kept her home and raised a garden and flowers.

Marie died in 1928, and Julius died in 1933. Their children were Minnie married to Otto Rochlitz, died in 1960. Will married Annie Otto, died in 1959. Annie married Ernest Lee living in Idaho, age 92. Otto married Bertha Garrett, died 1920. Ida married Charlie Glause living at Archer, age 87. Albert married Minnie Garrett living in Central City, age 83. Emma married Orrin Manchester, died 1978.

ORVILLE BLAUHORN FAMILY

Orville Dale Blauhorn was born and raised in Merrick County. He is the youngest of nine children of William Carl and Anna (Otto) Blauhorn. Orville is of German descent.



Orville D. Blauhorn Family
Orville D., Barbara, Terry, William and Susan

I, Barbara Jean, was born and raised in Hall County. There are only two of us in my family, myself and an older brother, Robert. Our parents are LeRoy Herman and Loretta Brenedetta (Cox) Schutt. I am of German and English descent.

Orville attended grade school at District #58, and was a graduate of Archer High School in the year of 1948. There were four boys and no girls in his graduating class. Then in 1952, he went off to serve in the Army for two years. When he returned home, he helped his dad and two brothers, Ervin and Elmer, with farming of row crops and hay, also feeding out cattle.

I received my elementary education in two country schools, Districts #32 and #13. I graduated in 1954 from Shelton High School. After graduation, I moved to Grand Island and worked as a clerk-typist for the Ulry-Talbert Company.

Orville and I met in Grand Island through the Trinity Methodist Church youth group, called "TRI-F." We dated for one year before I pioneered to Merrick County. On January 6, 1957, we were married at the Archer Evangelical United Brethren Church, now known as Archer Zion United Methodist. It was a beautiful, crisp chilly day for January. Orville's two brothers were his attendants, and two close friends were mine. Two days after our "special day", we were in for the 1957 blizzard, which seemed to last forever.

Orville and I live on his home place between Archer and Palmer, Nebraska. We purchased the farm from his folks, as they were retiring to a new home in Grand Island, Nebraska. Through the years on the farm, we have progressed from hand moving irrigation pipe to booms, and now to pivot irrigation. Besides farming, Orville likes to feed cattle. As for myself, I work alongside of Orville as a domestic engineer, and enjoy every bit of it.

We have reared and raised three children: Terry Lee, William LeRoy, and Susan LeAnn, and they all received their education at Palmer Public School. They rode the school bus to and from school, as our school district was consolidated into Palmer. Through the years, the children were in many county and school activities to help them grow as citizens of Merrick County.

Terry and Bill farm along with their dad, sharing work and responsibilities. Susan is making her a career with a job in Grand Island.

We are members of the Archer Zion United Methodist Church. Orville and I hold various jobs within the church. Also we were part of the congregation involved in tearing down our old church and building the new church.

Our life on the farm was what we hoped and expected it to be, with its many ups and downs. It is a great place to raise a family, and to watch them grow, too. We are looking forward to our silver haired days and to enjoy the good life of our hard-earned days on the farm. *Submitted by Barbara Jean Blauhorn*

WILLIAM C. BLAUHORN FAMILY

William C. Blauhorn, son of Julius and Marie Buss Blauhorn, was born on December 2, 1886. Anna M. Otto, daughter of William and Anna Rudolf Otto, was born on March 13, 1893. As children, they lived within two miles of each other. In those days you didn't go far to meet your marriage partner. They were married on October 17, 1912. They settled on a farm northwest of Archer, Nebraska in Merrick County which was about halfway between their childhood homes. Anna's grandparents, Frederich and Henrietta Rudolf, homesteaded on this farm in 1889.

Nine children were born to this union. They are: Ervin who married Bonnie Sharvin; Mildred who married Lawrence Friedricksen and Harry Scarborough, who are both deceased; Elmer married Helen Rowlett; Dorothy married Frank Scharvin (a brother of Bonnie); Edna married Thomas Shull; Ina Jean married Charles Giles; and Orville married Barbara Schutt. Two children, Bernetta and Opal, are deceased. There are eighteen grandchildren; twenty-six great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. It is unique that all seven children live in Nebraska and regularly get together for family dinners. They are all in the farming business except Dorothy and Ina Jean.



William C. Blauhorn Family — December 1950
Back l-r — Orville, Dorothy, Ervin Edna, Elmer. **Front l-r** — Ina Jean, Anna M., William C. and Mildred.

William served many years on the School Board at Rural District #58 where the children attended school. School picnics, ball games and programs were a community highlight.

The Zion Evangelical Church was the family church. Most activities centered around the life of the church where they were all active and served in many ways. The children were all baptized and married through this church. Through merging of denominations it is now a United Methodist Church and a new building was erected in 1975.

With this many in the family and going through the depression and "Dust Bowl" years everyone had to work. There were cows to milk, pigs to feed, wood to chop, corn to pick, grain to shock and thrash, garden to plant with plenty of canning to be done. Anna also helped with chores and found time to cut her patterns and sew for her children. William and Charles Glause (a brother-in-law) did commercial thrashing. This would bring all the neighbors together.

William and Anna remodeled their farm home in 1927. They installed a Delco plant to generate electricity and put in running water. Those were improvements that the family really appreciated. William later became very active in promoting electricity for rural areas through the Rural Electric Association.

After living on the farm for forty-four years, they moved to Grand Island in December 1956 into a house that they built at 108 West 20th. Their youngest son, Orville, took over the farm place. They enjoyed the fellowship of Anna's four sisters that lived in Grand Island.

William passed away on August 17, 1959.

Anna still lives alone in their home. She enjoys taking care of it and her flowers and has homemade cookies and coffee for her children when they come. Her home was hit by the June 3rd, 1980 tornado. With much help from her children it has taken on a new look. *Submitted by Edna M. Shull*

HOMER & CLARA BLEVINS

Homer Oscar Blevins, second son of John Hill and Mary Ann Bingham Blevins was born near Terre Haute, Indiana on October 29, 1878. In 1881 the family moved by covered wagon to Butler County, Nebraska and then on to Merrick County in 1893 to their newly acquired farm southwest of Central City, Nebraska.

On January 6, 1904 Oscar married Clara Fogland at Central City, Nebraska. They lived and farmed one year near Oscar's parents then moved to their newly purchased farm home about two miles northeast of Chapman. They were successful farmers there for many years. They retired in 1943 and moved to Chapman.

Clara Fogland was born near Aurora, Nebraska on September 27, 1884 where she still lived when they were married. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 6, 1954. Oscar passed away April 7, 1966 at the age of 87 and Clara passed away April 2, 1972 at the age of eighty-seven.

Four children were born to this union, Gladys, Ralph, Kenneth and Marilyn. Gladys married Dwight Merryman from Kearney, Nebraska on August 20, 1924. They have lived most of their married life at Chapman. They were in the construction business before retiring. Ralph married Hulda Siemers on July 11, 1931. They have one son Larry who has a pharmacy in Lincoln, Nebraska. Ralph passed away July 6, 1945. Kenneth married Marie Murphy September 21, 1951. They have farmed all their married life until retirement. They own and live on Kenneth's grandfather's place near Central City. This farm has been in the same family name since 1893. Marilyn was married to Dale Orendorff on August 7, 1943. They have one daughter Judy who lives near Denver. Marilyn was killed in a car accident in Denver on December 12, 1969. *Submitted by Gladys Blevins Merryman*



Oscar and Clara Blevins
1965

JOHN & MARY ANN BLEVINS

John Hill Blevins was born at Nashville, Tennessee, on August 22, 1841, and passed away on February 28, 1936, at the age of ninty-four and one-half.

He was one of the true patriots of his country, who, though born and reared on southern soil, left his family and friends and came North to join the Union Army. At the age of nineteen his brother Allen and himself walked all night and hid in the daytime until they were clear of Rebel territory which was about sixty miles from their home. He believed in the United States and gave up all family ties for a principle. He was in the Union Army until the finish. He went through many of the famous battles without being wounded or captured. He spent most of the time in Sherman's Army and marched to the sea with him. He received his discharge shortly after reaching the sea.



Mr. and Mrs. John Blevins

At the close of the war he settled in Indiana where he met and married Mary Ann Bingham of Bloomfield on October 7, 1872. Six children were born to this union: Leuticia, John Edman, Homer Oscar, Ora Blevins Belville, Arthur and Harrison (Bob). Leuticia passed away in infancy. Mrs. Blevins was born February 13, 1854, at Bloomfield, Indiana, and passed away April 10, 1930. She lived a little past 76 years of age. They moved from Indiana with their family to Butler County in Nebraska where they resided until 1893 when they came to live in the vicinity of Central City, Nebraska in Merrick County on their newly acquired farm. *Submitted by Gladys Blevins Merryman*

JOHN E. & NELLIE BLEVINS

John Edman Blevins, always addressed as "Ed", eldest son of John Hill and Mary Ann Bingham, was born in Terre Haute, Indiana in 1875. When a small boy the family moved to Butler County, Nebraska and on to Merrick County when he was seventeen. Ed and his brother, Homer Oscar farmed together for several years locating one mile northeast of Chapman on Highway 30 and ¼ mile east.

In 1903 Ed married Nellie Donovan at Central City and continued farming at the home place until 1936 when they moved to Grand Island. Homer Oscar established north and a little east of the home place. Along with his farming and interest in land, he had an extensive insurance agency with a number of companies writing property and hail insurance.

When he was attached to the business end of a scoop shovel or hay fork he could wear out any "Wooden Indian" in the camp!



John "Ed" and Nellie Blevins
1946

Nellie was born at St. Louis, Missouri in 1876. She was adopted by the parents of John Donovan, and later when John was married they took her as his adopted sister until she married.

Nellie and Ed observed their Golden Wedding Anniversary at their home in Grand Island, February 18, 1953. Nellie passed away in 1956 at the age of seventy-nine and Ed passed away in 1963 at the age of eighty-seven.

One daughter, Crystal (Mrs. John Wasley) lives in Curtis, Nebraska. Crystal was born at the home place east of Chapman in 1910, graduated from the Chapman High School in 1928, then attended Hastings Business College on scholarship, where she met John. They were married January 2, 1932 and will observe their Golden Wedding Anniversary on January 2, 1982, Lord willing. They started housekeeping north of Moorefield, Nebraska in Lincoln County for three years, then in 1935 moved to a farm in Frontier Co., one and three quarters miles west of Moorefield. Crystal taught music for quite a few years. In 1967 John had eye surgery and Doctor told him he had better quit farming, or else become blind, so they sold out and built a new home in Curtis and moved there in August 1968. *Submitted by Mrs. John M. Wasley*

BOEHL — HOLTZ

My great-grandparents and my grandparents, John and Marie Boehl, came from Germany in 1854. They first settled in Missouri, but during the Civil War, fled to Nebraska. The women carried their savings sewed in the hems of their skirts and drove the team and wagon during the day. The men walked or crawled on their hands and knees at night to escape involvement in the Civil War. They all arrived safely, and settled on a farm three miles west of Grand Island, where my father, Henry, was born in 1864. My grandfather hauled freight from Omaha to Grand Island, and also drove a stagecoach between these points. He was also a carpenter.

My father attended school in the first school built in Hall County. In 1888, he married Agusta Rudolph who also came from Germany. I was the second of their seven children John, Frieda Holtz, Meta Zwiebel, Frank, Marie Seefus, Winifred Peterson and Mabel (Russel) Nelson.

My father was employed in Glover's Department Store in Grand Island. I was born in 1890 and attended school in Grand Island for two years. Then, because of ill health, my father quit the store and we moved to a farm northwest of Clarks in District #25. Five years later we again moved, this time to a farm northwest of Archer. My father was also a carpenter and built many barns and homes in the Archer area. In the later years, he owned and operated a feed store and cream station in Archer.

I attended "Stove Poker" (District #43) school. My teachers were Matilda Boltz and Walter Wilson. We had lots of 'wet years' and ice skating was very popular then. It was at a skating party that I met Herman Holtz. We were married on February 26, 1908.

Herman's parents Anna and John first settled in Mason City, Illinois, where he was born in 1884. In search of a dream, they loaded belongings on a train and migrated to Mead Township, where John had purchased a farm. It wasn't long before they realized that that farm was a bad investment, and so purchased another farm near Archer. Herman had two brothers, Fred and Peter, and two sisters, Kate Kantor and Mary Holtz.

Herman and I made our home on the Holtz farm, three miles northwest of Archer. We had seven children, all born on this farm. They also attended "Stove Poker" school and Archer High. Lawrence was born in 1908 followed by Walter, James, Charles, Ruby Hargens, Margaret Olson, and Ethel Hake.

As many young people were moving from the farms to urban areas, so did my children. In 1945, after thirty-six years on the same farm, Herman and I moved to our home in Archer. Herman passed away in 1965. Four years later I sold my home and moved to Indiana to be closer to my children.

Highlights of 1980 were my ninieth birthday celebration and a trip to Washington state to celebrate my son and daughter-in-law's 50th wedding anniversary (Lawrence and Margaret Holtz), my youngest granddaughter's wedding, and the wedding of one of my great-granddaughters. *Submitted by Frieda Boehl Holtz*



Stove Poker School —
District 43 — 1902

THE BOELTS FAMILY FIVE GENERATIONS



Gerd and Anna Oeltjen Boelts

Gerd and Anna Oeltjen Boelts, with their children, Catharina, Johanne, Fred, John and Gustave, came to Prairie Creek Township in 1878, from Scharrel, Oldenburg, Germany. Their daughter, Anna, was born in Prairie Creek Township. They established through their son, Fred G., five generations who have lived in Merrick County.

They were early members of the German Methodist Church southeast of Palmer. The church no longer exists, but its adjacent cemetery is still there. Gerd and Anna Oeltjen Boelts are buried in this cemetery.

The boys and Anna attended school at District #35. Fred also attended Iowa Wesleyan. He taught in the rural schools of Merrick County. On March 18, 1899, he married Kate Bruno, a teacher, and one of the first white babies born in Prairie Creek Township. She was the daughter of Henry A. and Augusta Pemberton Bruno who came to Nebraska from Michigan in 1873. Henry Bruno's ancestors came to Quebec from France in the 1600's. He was postmaster at Chapman, practiced law in Central City, and represented Merrick County in the State Legislature for one term. Augusta could boast of colonial ancestors who served in the Revolutionary War.

A few years after their marriage, Fred and Kate bought a farm two miles east and two miles north of Archer. Their children, Margaret (Mrs. Ralph Farrall), Irene (Mrs. Walter Miller), Edith (Mrs. Henry Munderloh), Helen, Roland, and Hubert, attended Gardner School and graduated from Central City High School. After Fred's death in 1922, Kate and her sons operated the farm. After Kate's death in 1944, Hubert purchased the farm and he spent most of his life there.

The five older children left Merrick County to pursue their careers.

Hubert married Esther Nagel of Lincoln. Their children, Fred (Hubert Frederick Boelts, Jr.), Norman of Fairbanks, Alaska, and Gail (Mrs. Brad Cool) of North Platte, attended Gardner School and graduated from Central City High School.

Fred, a graduate of the University of Nebraska, lives in Archer. He farms and operates a trucking business. He married Rebecca Trendle of Fullerton. Rebecca, a graduate of Kearney State is a teacher.

Their children, Heidi, Robert, and John, have the distinction of being the fifth generation of the Boelts family in Merrick County.

Stories of the Blizzard of '88 were related in the family. Fred G. told of the teacher in District #35 who kept his students in the schoolhouse over night to keep them from being lost in the storm. Kate's stepfather, T. N. Gosnell followed a fence to the District #28 schoolhouse and proceeded home with his children following the same fence. He tied one end of a piece of twine to the knob of the kitchen door and the other end to a flatiron which he carried to the barn. After he had finished his nightly chores, the twine and flatiron helped him find his way back to the house. *Submitted by Helen Boelts*

JOHN G. BOELTS

Running for office was something like a game to John G. Boelts. He knew that there was the risk of defeat, but he also knew that there was a chance of winning. He never allowed defeat to daunt him. He was always ready to face the challenge of another campaign.

He was too outspoken to capture the majority of votes in several elections. He had definite views, some of which were unpopular, and he let people know what he thought. When he did meet with success, he had the interests of the people at heart and he tried to represent them conscientiously.

He was Merrick County's representative in the Nebraska State Legislature in 1909-1911. He held the same office again in the early thirties. He campaigned successfully for a term as the Nebraska State Senator from Merrick, Platte, and Polk Counties.

He had a plan for a Unicameral Legislature, and made effort to put it into effect. His plan lost out, however, to the unicameral plan of the United States Senator from Nebraska, George W. Norris.

He had a sense of humor and was capable of making witty remarks. He proudly told people that his Model T coupe had gone through two campaigns and had never received an egg. He liked to argue. He was often seen and heard on the streets of Central City and the smaller towns of Merrick County, expounding his political views to a group of listeners.

No one else like him ever lived in Merrick County. A cousin, a nephew, and a grand nephew have also had the name of John Boelts, but he is the one and only John Boelts, politician. *Submitted by Helen Boelts*

VANCE E. BOELTS FAMILY

Vance Eric Boelts, son of S. Gus Boelts and Agda T. (Johnson) Boelts was born in Merrick County, Nebraska December 5, 1919. Except for the years between 1940 and 1946, during which time he spent working for the United States Government, and four years plus in the Army Air Corps, (two years overseas) he has lived in Merrick County.

While working in Washington, D.C., prior to World War Two, he met his wife Margaret (Peggy) Maguire, a descendent of an old Virginia family.

Vance is the grandson of Gerd Boelts who left Oldenberg, Germany in 1878 and settled in Merrick County, on a farm three miles from the farm Vance was born on, that Vance still owns and operates.



Vance E. Boelts Family

When Gerd Boelts left Oldenberg, Germany he left behind fifteen generations of recorded history of the Boelts family dating back to 1483. It was recorded of the fifth generation, year 1581, that Gerd Bolling-Hausmann in Westerchips, Germany appeared with his lance and armour for military duty.

While traveling in Europe Vance and I visited the ancestral Village of Ger Boelts in Oldenberg, Germany and found a cousin who related family history of those who stayed behind. Near Klein Charrell we discovered a memorial erected to honor the area soldiers that died during World War Two. Among others the Boelts name was inscribed.

Vance and I raised three children on the family farm ten miles west of Central City.

Vance Jr., a Kearny State College graduate, married Carolyn Svoboda of St. Paul, Nebraska. They have two children. Vance Jr. has worked for the government since graduating from College. He has spent considerable time in Europe in connection with his occupation. He served his military duty in the Marine Corps. At the present time they live in Portland, Oregon.

Brenda, a Creighton University graduate, is married to Dr. Charles Chapin who practices medicine in Washington, D.C. Brenda is a free lance writer.

Nedra, a graduate of George Washington University, also lives in Washington, D.C. She is art director for Union Headquarters A.F.L. - C.I.O.

Vance is still active with his farming and livestock operations, although we do manage to spend a good deal of time in Virginia, where we also maintain a home. We both like to travel and do so extensively, both in the states and overseas.

Vance E. Boelts as listed in Who's Who in Nebraska 1977 Edition: Farmer, Real Estate Broker, Agriculture Adviser in the Peace Corps, served in Iran, Past Chairman Merrick County Democrat Party, past member state Democrat Party Central Committee, Past Commander American Legion. Membership in Legion, 40 & 8, BPOE, MASONS. *Submitted by Mrs. Vance E. Boelts*

HENRY & EVA BOLLING

Henry W. Bolling was born on November 14, 1898, in Dodge County, Nebraska. His mother, Katie Dierks was of Scribner, Nebraska, and his father, Henry N. C. Bolling was born in Germany. He had one sister, Mary Donelson, and brothers, Carl, deceased, and William and George of Illinois.

Henry attended grade school in Dodge County. His parents moved to Central City, Nebraska (around 1915). Here he finished his schooling at what is now known as Christian College. He attended four years at the School of Agriculture in Lincoln, Nebraska, graduating in 1919. He was Tech. Class secretary (4), Y.M.C.A. (4), football captain (4), basketball captain (4), Captain Co. A. Workizer First Lieutenant. After graduating from Lincoln, he started farming on his father's farm east of Archer, Nebraska. His parents moved to Broken Bow, Nebraska. Henry batched until he married in 1923.

Eva M. McMahon was born on October 7, 1903 in Merrick County, Nebraska. Her mother Lillie Mills, and father, Michael McMahon, were the parents of fourteen children: four living children, Tressie Hilligas of San Ramon, California, Frances Fitzgerald of Fort Madison, Iowa, Ed McMahon of Central City, and Eva, the twelfth child. She attended public grade school at District #38, graduating from C.C.H.S. in 1922.

On May 16, 1923, Henry and Eva were married at St. Michael's Catholic Church, where she had been a member all her life and Henry joining at their marriage. They were the parents of seven children:



Henry and Eva Bolling Family

Charles, born February 10, 1924, married Margaret Wozney. They have one son, Pat. Charles lives in Phoenix, Arizona.

Philip, born November 5, 1925, married Bernardine Hack. They had eleven children. Anita Eva died young. Laura, Charlotte, P. Russell, Tim, Christi, Janaan, Andy, Mark and Matt (twins) and Trisha are the ten living children. Philip died in an explosion at his locker plant on December 17, 1975.

Catherine, born July 18, 1929, married Keith Blodgett. They are the parents of ten children. Marcia and Renee died in infancy. Living children are: Linda, Steve, Tom, Thadd, Ken, Pat, Kirk and Craig (twins). They live in Central City.

Phyllis, born January 3, 1933, married Wallace Hannappel. They have six children: Lawrence, Kathleen, Joe, Yvonne, Mark, and Irene. They live in Cozad, Nebraska.

Melissa, born December 13, 1934, married Jerry Hannappel. They are the parents of seven children: Theresa, Deborah, Gary, David, Michael, Lynn, and Ted. They live in Phoenix, Arizona.

Maymie, born July 12, 1937, married Robert Flesch. They have one boy, Joey. They live in Spring, Texas.

Carol, born April 7, 1944, married Paul Bonness. They have one boy, Mac, and live in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There is a total of thirty-four grandchildren living and three deceased.

We celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1973. This was the only time that all of the family were together. On April 30, 1975, Henry died in a local hospital. He is buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Central City. Philip is buried close by. There is a spot there for me,.Eva.

Our life during the depression years was like so many others that lived through it. We had our joys and sorrows, but that is life. If you wish to call, I am at home at 1120 — 20th St. I will be glad to see you. *Submitted by Eva M. Bolling*

PHILIP BOLLING FAMILY

Philip Eugene Bolling was born November 5, 1925 to Henry and Eva Bolling in Merrick County on a farm east of Archer, Nebraska. He attended school District #56 until the eighth grade. He graduated from the Central City High School in 1943. He married Bernardine Faye Hack, daughter of Bernard and Ruth Hack on September 23, 1950. He was drafted into the Army, October 13, 1950 and left for Korea March 20, 1951. He returned home July 12, 1952. Bernardine was born December 25, 1932.

They had eleven children:

Laura Marie born April 27, 1951. She married Terry Dallegge. They have two children, Travis and Jennifer. They are now living in Columbia, South Carolina.

Charlotte Ann born June 26, 1953 lives in St. Paul, Nebraska.

Christine Lee was born December 26, 1955 and married Gary Gramberg. They have two daughters, Jaime and Lisa and they live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Philip Russell born April 15, 1956 and married Iva Sidders. They have one son, Philip. They live in Central City, Nebraska.

Timothy Eugene was born March 17, 1957. He married Sandra Mace. They have one son, Adam and live in Central City, Nebraska.

Janaan Louise was born March 31, 1958 and married Thomas Hawthorne. They live in Central City, Nebraska. They have a son, Jason.

Andrew Thomas born March 28, 1959 and married Denise Douglas. They live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Anita Eve born September 30, 1961 and died December 20, 1963.

Matthew Alan and Mark Henry were twins and born October 9, 1962. They graduated from the Central City Schools in 1981.

Trisha Mary was born December 4, 1957 and is in the eighth grade in the Central City Middle School.

Philip Bolling was a member of the American Legion, Knights of Pythias and a member of the Catholic Church in Central City. He purchased the Schneiderheinz Locker Plant in December 1962. He did custom meat processing and slaughtering until December 17, 1975 when the business was destroyed by an explosion. It also took Philip's life. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Russ Bolling*

REV. ED BONNEAU

My family and I are relative newcomers to Merrick County, but we feel fortunate to have moved here in a moving van. My great-grandmother McMullin, to whom we trace our beginnings in this great state, moved to Nebraska in a covered wagon.

Although in their late forties, and the parents of nine children, my great-grandparents decided to move to Nebraska from their home in Pennsylvania. The Doctor warned against such a move, however, saying that such a long and hazardous journey by wagon would certainly be too much for Great-Grandma, who suffered from pleurisy. He said if they would move she would be dead before they crossed the Appalachians.

Not only did the McMullins move and start a new life in Nebraska, but my Great-Grandmother lived for another fifty years, dying at the ripe age of 98 in the state she had grown to love, Nebraska. *Submitted by Reverend Ed Bonneau*

HARVEY BONNESS FAMILY

Harvey Raymond Bonness was born August 12, 1903 at Archer, Nebraska — to Paul and Lydia Retzlaff Bonness. He attended elementary school in Archer and graduated from Central City High School in 1921. He was active in basketball and football.

Upon graduation he joined his father in the Archer General Store and remained there the rest of his life. He always regretted not having the opportunity for a college education.

On August 19, 1925 Harvey was married to Marjorie Davis at Wolbach, the daughter of Ernest and Mable Porterfield Davis. Marjorie received her education in Wolbach. She attended Kearney State Teachers College before teaching one year in Howard County and one year in Archer.

To this union two children, Harold Richard and Kathryn Lea, were born. They both graduated from Archer High School and attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

Harold graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering. On May 30, 1950 he was married to Arlayne Kyes — the daughter of Leonard and Mabel Funk Kyes — both Merrick County pioneer families. They now live in Bellevue. He is Ass't Manager of Allied Chemical Plant at LaPlatte. They have four children, Rik, Robert, Annette, and Bill.

Kathryn attended The College of Home Economics, University of Nebraska, Lincoln. She taught four years in the Merrick County Rural Schools. On June 21, 1953 Kathryn was married to George H. Ferris, son of Lee and Eva Hathaway Ferris. They are successful farmers north of Archer. They have two daughters, Barbara (Mrs. Alan) Anderson of Gothenberg and Janet (Mrs. Patrick) Sullivan of Lincoln.

For more than twenty years Harvey served on the Archer School Board. He also served many years as the Zion EUB Church Treasurer. Upon the organization of the Archer Co-Op Credit Ass'n, he became Chairman of the Loan Committee where he served for many years.

Upon the death of their father in 1932, Arthur and Elmer joined Harvey in the store and it became Bonness Bros. In 1942 Arthur sold his share to Harvey and Elmer and moved to Grand Island.

For many years while "Harv and Ty" owned "The Store" open hours were from 7 a.m. until the last "Salt Block Sitters" had settled the current "affairs of state". Sometimes it was early evening — sometimes much later — depending on the "busy season" in the local farming community and the seriousness of the "business at hand".

In 1960 Bonness Bros. celebrated sixty years of business by the same family, same building, same location, serving the Archer community.

Music has always been a large part of Marge's life. Many years she was pianist and music director at Zion EUB Church. She also assisted with the music at the Archer school and now helps with the children's Sunday School music at Fairview U.M. Church.

During the years many youngsters came for piano lessons from Marge and learned the fundamentals of music. Our home was always full of young folks and music which we all enjoyed.

Harvey died on March 29, 1968. He is buried in the Central City Cemetery. Marge married Earl Stander in 1973. Earl died in 1978 and is buried in the Central City Cemetery. Marge still lives at Archer. (1981) *Submitted by Marge Bonness Stander*

PAUL BONNESS FAMILY

In 1874 when two years old, Paul Max Johannes Bonness came to America with his mother, Mathilda Hanke Bonness, from Cordeshagen, Germany. Until 25, he worked on a farm near Ithaca, Nebraska, thus knowing the privations and hardships of pioneer life.

In 1900 he came to Archer, Nebraska, where he spent the rest of his life as a successful merchant in his self-owned store.

His wife, Lydia Retzlaff Bonness, also was of German extraction. She was born in 1878 in a soddy home near Archer to August and Anna Retzlaff, living on a farm until her marriage. Being the oldest child, she became her father's "right-hand man" as well as her mother's helper. She was strong physically and spiritually, and often was called when illness overtook a relative or friend.



Lydia and Paul Bonness — 1902

Paul and Lydia were married October 22, 1902, and from this union came eight children — Harvey, Arthur, Elmer, Evelyn, Wauneta, Orville, Eleanor and Quentin.

Since both parents were deprived of much schooling, they determined that each child would have a good education. So we learned early to love books and good music.

All eight children graduated from high school — all but one had a college or a university opportunity. Several are college graduates, two have Master's Degrees. The three older boys were merchants, the three girls were teachers, and two boys were engineers. All have traveled in the U.S. and some in Canada: several have traveled abroad, and Evelyn became . a world traveler visiting some seventy countries.

'Dad' Bonness built two new homes for Mother and she was a real homemaker, with a continued love for the outdoors, as evidenced by her garden and flowers.

The church and its activities were a basis for our family, with many taking active part in the church work.

The annual 4th of July picnic was a special church activity highlight. Marvelous food and lots of lemonade and races were attractions. Horse races were exciting, but one contest long-remembered for us was a nail-pounding contest. Ten men and our mother competed, with Mother winning, for she had pounded the most and straightest nails in the allotted time.

Dad Bonness wanted good things for his church, family and town. He was a school board member for many years, was a tireless worker in the town's extras such as free movies, corn fair, etc.

Dad loved to drive, and most of the children well remember our Sunday afternoon adventures. Mother would pack a lunch and we'd get in the car to travel over roads or to places we'd not found before. We'd find a roadside tree and picnic there. Those cars changed from an "EMF" to "Buick" to "Chrysler".

Both of the old homes still remain in Archer, and as we pass by, we relive some moments and hope the occupants feel the security we'd known there.

The Bonness family still often gets together for a birthday, Christmas, or just a picnic . . . it became an established custom while our parents lived. *Submitted by, Evelyn Bonness*

BOOTH FAMILY

The Booth family moved from Tabor, Iowa in 1899 to a house in Central City, Nebraska. In 1900 they moved to a farm five and one half miles northeast, known as the "Cover" farm. There were eight children in the family, three girls and five boys. The father, Dr. Booth, was a dentist and practiced in Clarks, Nebraska.

The Booths began farming with only one Jersey cow and one team of horses. There was a wood frame house on the farm and the barn, also wood frame, was large enough to house fourteen dairy cows, which they acquired by 1906.

During this time, the three older children, Oscar, Ermina and Anna, went to Topeka, Kansas for their education. An aunt lived there and she found them places to work for their room and board until they finished high school.



Booth Family
Back l-r — William, Oscar D., Sanborn, Anna, Fannie. **Middle** — Dr. Oscar Booth, Mrs. Fannie, Ermina. **Front** — Charles.

On January 5, 1905, Dr. and Mrs. Booth went to town to sell a calf and buy supplies. Five children were at home, the eldest being Sanborn, age 14. It was a warm day for January, and the children were out by the barn looking at five white pigs, the first pigs the Booth family owned. Sanborn looked around the corner of the barn, toward the house, and said, "There is smoke coming from the cob house." The children ran to the cob house. Sanborn threw a bucket of water on the fire, but a sudden strong wind from the northwest whipped the flames across the kitchen porch of the house. Sanborn ran in the west door of the house and brought out the family clock, sewing machine and bookcase. The younger children wanted to help, but Sanborn would not let them. The house burned to the ground and nothing else could be saved. Dr. Booth decided to build the new house of cement blocks. The sand for the cement.could be dug from the low land on the farm, and the cement purchased by the carload to be delivered by the Union Pacific to "Thummel" siding, about two miles away. The family helped, making their own cement blocks. Because it was the first cement building in the area, many people came to see it. One man scratched the cement wall with his fingernail and remarked, "Humph, just wait until the first good rain, and you'll just have a big pile of sand."

In 1910 the Booths began making cement blocks for use in building a large barn on the farm. Sanborn laid the cement blocks for the silo attached to the barn. The barn stood for many years, a landmark in the area, before it was destroyed by tornadic winds in the 1950's. The cement block house still stands on the farm.

In 1907 Sanborn attended the School of Agriculture in Lincoln, graduating in 1910. The younger brothers, Charles and Bill, also attended the School of Agriculture until 1916, when Charles entered the service.

The farm was sold by Dr. Booth in 1918. *Submitted by Charles Booth*

ERMINA & SANBORN BOOTH

Ermina Booth was born in a dugout in Tologa County, Kansas in 1887. Her parents were Oscar and Fannie Booth.

Her brother, Sanborn, was born in Hopkins, Missouri in 1890.

They came with their family to Merrick County in 1900 attending rural schools northeast of Central City.

Ermina graduated from high school in Topeka, Kansas. She studied piano while there and later gave piano lessons.

Sanborn graduated from the School of Agriculture in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1910. He went to the service during World War One.

When Sanborn returned home from the service, he worked for two years with his brother, Bill, in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, where they rented a farm and scooped sugar beets. He then returned to Central City to the farm just west of the Booth home, which farm was then known as the "Eddy" farm. It was located near District #27 School. Sanborn made cement blocks and in 1924 undertook the task of building a cement block barn on this farm. In 1935 he made his own cement bricks and built a cement brick house there. He and his sister Ermina, lived on this farm for thirty-nine years, from 1924 to 1963.

They then moved to Central City, purchasing the house at 1904 Twelfth Street, living there until the 1970's when they moved to Parkview Home, now Bethesda Care Center.

In 1978 they received the Knights of Aksarben Good Neighbor Award for their many years of community service.

They were longtime members of the Central City United Methodist Church.

Ermina died in December, 1978. *Submitted by Sanborn Booth*

FRED BOSS FAMILY

Frederick (Fred) Boss, the son of Chris and Emelia Gisin Boss was born February 27, 1886, in Platte County, Gruetli neighborhood, south of Monore, Nebraska. He had two sisters and three brothers.

Farming was his life occupation.

On February 16, 1910, he married Laura Julia Engel. They traveled by lumber wagon to Columbus, Nebraska, where they were married by a Methodist minister (Rev. Hackman). Traveling by train, Fred and Laura spent their honeymoon in Pierce, Nebraska, with Laura's sister and family, Frank and Emma Scholz. Laura was born August 1, 1882, on the Island in Merrick County, then moved to a farm in Platte County, Nebraska, west of Duncan, Nebraska. She resided here until her marriage.

Fred and Laura lived on a farm in the Gruetli neighborhood for about three years. Then they moved to a farm (Sanders Farm) in Merrick County, Nebraska, east of Silver Creek, where they resided until they retired in 1951 and moved to Silver Creek, living with their daughter and son-in-law, Mildred and Lelon Alexander. Fred and Laura were members of the United Methodist Church in Silver Creek. They celebrated their Golden Anniversary on February 16, 1960. Fred had a stroke in the fall of 1971, so he spent more than three years at the Columbus Manor. Laura joined him at the Manor that same fall, and she died May 26, 1972, in Platte County, Columbus, Nebraska. Fred died December 25, 1974, in Platte County, Columbus, Nebraska. Both are buried in Silver Creek Cemetery, Merrick County. Their three daughters all attended District #10 grade school and Silver Creek High School, Merrick County.

Bernice Wilhelmina was born June 6, 1914, in Merrick County, Nebraska. She married Ray Eugene Alexander on December 1, 1938, in Silver Creek, Nebraska. There were three children — Frederick Raymond, born 1939; Brenda Bernice, born 1948; and Betty Lou, born 1952. In 1951, after the Boss's moved to Silver Creek, Ray and Bernice moved onto the farm. Bernice Wilhelmina died August 4, 1968. Ray continued farming the home place until the farm was sold September 25, 1972, to Virginia W. Tolman.

Mildred Clara was born September 12, 1917, in Merrick County, Nebraska. She married Lelon Edward Alexander (brother of Ray) on October 11, 1941, in Silver Creek. Lelon and Mildred still live in Silver Creek and are enjoying their retirement.

Velma Lorean was born February 15, 1912, in Platte County, Nebraska. She married John Edward Sandell in Silver Creek, Nebraska, on July 6, 1941. John and Velma lived in Wichita, Kansas, until 1946. This was during the second World War. John worked for Beech Aircraft. Their son, Donald Edward, was born in 1945 in Sedgwick County, Wichita, Kansas. They have lived in Lincoln, Nebraska, Lancaster County, for the past thirty-five years. *Submitted by Velma Boss Sandell*

CARSTEN & MARY BOSSELMAN

The original family name when they came to America from Germany was Von Borstelmann. The "Von" was dropped and the name became "Borstelmann". By the time Carsten was buried, the obituary read "Bosselmann", and the family has since dropped the final "n".

Carsten (Von Borstelmann) Bosselman was born October 21, 1845. In 1868, he left Hanover, Germany, and emigrated to America with his two brothers, John and Claus, and a cousin, Claus Damman.

Mary Koch was born April 24, 1841, and at the age of five emigrated with her parents to America from Prussia, in Northern Germany. The family settled near Brighton, Michigan, in Genoa Township, Livingston County.

According to their marriage license, Carsten and Mary were married in Genoa Township, Michigan, December 1872. The winter of that same year, they moved to Grand Island, Nebraska, with Carsten's cousin Claus Damman. Carsten and Mary homesteaded sixteen miles northeast of Grand Island within a half mile of what is now the community of Worms. Their claim was filed on the W½ of the SE¼ of Section 18, Township 13 West, Range 8 North in Merrick County.



Carsten and Mary Bosselman
Circa 1885

With their savings they built a house on this homestead. It was nearing completion, when a fierce blizzard struck late in the afternoon on April 13, 1873, Easter Sunday. With no other protection available, it was necessary for them to put their team of oxen in the basement. Comforters and blankets were hung about the walls in an attempt to keep the fine snow from sifting in. Trying to conserve their

limited fuel supply, and in order to keep warm. they spent the next three days of the storm in bed. In later years, both confessed that after the storm they would have gone right back to Michgan had it not been that all of their life savings were invested in this land and new house.

In 1874, the couple filed a timber claim on the W½ of the NW¼ of this same section. That claim was later cancelled.

1874 and 1875 were the years of the grasshopper plagues. Attempting to save their garden from the clouds of grasshoppers, they took the bedding from the beds and covered their plants with them: the hoppers ate the bedding as well as the plants.

In addition to operating their homestead, Carsten leased four forty-acre tracts of land from the state in Section 16. The Federal Government at this time gave the State Section 16 of each Township to be used for school purposes. Each lease contained but forty acres, thereby limiting the size of the leases. Carsten first leased, then purchased these acres, all in the north half of the section. Upon the west half of this purchase, they built a new home and farmstead. The original homestead was sold to Carsten's brother John.

The couple attended church in Worms at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. They had four children who were baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. Their oldest children, twins Charles and Rosa, were born November 26, 1874. Charles would spend his whole life in the Worms Community. Rosa married Richard Kuehner and they farmed near Phillips, Nebraska. Mattie married William Leffelbein and they lived near Lexington, Nebraska, in Dawson County. The youngest daughter, Mamie, baptized Mary, lived with her parents, caring for her invalid mother. After Carsten's death, Mamie and Mary moved to Grand Island where they purchased a house and made their home. Following her mother's death, Mamie married Henry Eggers and lived in Grand Island.

Upon their son Charles' marriage in 1899, Carsten and Mary established a new home site by moving a house from Grand Island, locating it about forty rods north of the original place on what is now Ormsby Road.

With their son taking over the operation and management of the farm, they now had time to expand and develop their hobbies. Two ponds were dug and stocked with fish. Around and upon these ponds they had many different species of wild geese and wild ducks, many cranes and four different breeds of pheasants. Virigina White-Tail Deer, imported from Michigan, also had their home around the lakes, in the orchards and in the twenty-acre grove of thirty-two different varieties of trees. The couple's love for flowers was evidenced by the number of flower beds, the many varieties of flowers, and the intricacy with which the beds were laid out. Carsten called this operation the Deer Lake Stock Farm, and it was a favorite gathering place for families in the area to spend the day fishing and picnicing. Many oldtimers remember riding in buggies and on horseback to visit this area.

Carsten died November 21, 1923. The Republican-Nonpariel carried an obituary on November 24 headed "Merrick Pioneer Passes to Reward — Sudden Death Removes One of First Settlers of Western Part of County Last Week". It notes that Rev. Freese conducted the services in English and Rev. Schroeder conducted the German service and delivered an inspiring and consoling sermon. Mary passed away in July 1925. Both are interred in Worms. Their grandson Norman now owns most of the land that was the Deer Lake Stock Farm, and the land is farmed by his son Curtis, the fourth generation of Bosselman's on the land. In 1978, the Bosselman Family was honored by the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben by a Pioneer Farm Family Award for "One Hundred Years of Continuous Ownership Within the Family of the Same Nebraska Farm Ground." *Submitted by Manuscripts by Charles Orval Bosselman*

CHARLES BOSSELMAN

Charles was born November 26, 1874, one of a set of twins belonging to Carsten and Mary Koch Bosselman, on the family homestead one mile through the section east of Worms, Nebraska. He was baptized, confirmed, and remained a life-long member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church at Worms. He received most of his grade schooling in a sod school house located a mile and a quarter south of what is now Worms. He graduated from the Grand Island Business College June 1, 1894.



Charles and Linda Klingenberg Bosselman

Charles married Linda Klingenberg in April 1899. The couple had four children. Lawrence died at birth. Florence Helen Marie, married John Wendell Bader. Arthur and Frances, who married Steven Meshalko and lived in Connecticut for a time, both now reside in Boise, Idaho. Linda died in April 1906. Following her death, Charles quit farming and made his living as a carpenter for three years. During these years he and his children lived in a house owned by William T. Malmrose, located one and one fourth mile south and one half mile west of the Bosselman farm near the center of Section 20.

On March 4, 1908, Charles married Johanna



Charles and Johanna Von Aschenbeck Bosselman

Christina Von Aschenbeck, who was born September 29, 1881, in Westerburg, Germany. When she was fourteen years old, she and sisters Ida and Sophia came to America. Two half-brothers, John and Henry Schroeder, preceded and assisted their journey to America. The girls lived with and worked for their relatives, the Newhauses, who farmed northwest of Omaha, near West Point and Scribner. Later Johanna worked for Dr. and Mrs. Bryant in Omaha. She met her husband through her half-brother, John D. Schroeder, then the minister for the Lutheran Church in Worms. It was John Schroeder who gave Worms its name: he named it after the Reformation City of Worms, Germany.

Following Charles and Johanna's marriage, the entire family moved back to his father's farm, Charles taking over it's operation once again.

Charles and Johanna had five children. Charlotte Sophronia married Allyn W. Eaton. Lillie Hattie Rose, born December 21, 1911, lived with and cared for her parents until their deaths. She baked pies at Bosselman and Eaton Restaurant for many years and still resides in Grand Island. Charles Orval, born March 28, 1914, married Elizabeth Glover Evans, a widow, on May 16, 1957. Elizabeth has two daughters: Mary Lou (Tim) Carleton, and Betty (Tom) Curran. Norman married Annetta Margaretha Kuck. Fredrich Herman married Maxine Forbes on September 7, 1941. They have four children: Barbara (Gene) Graves, Charles Dwight, Mary Bosselman Schultz, and Frederick Allen.

Charles served his community in various capacities in church, school and local government. Together with other stockholders, he helped direct the founding and management of different co-operatives and other organizations in the area. He served for a time as a Merrick County Supervisor.

On February 28, 1930, Charles became ill and was admitted to St. Francis Hospital in Grand Island. He contracted encephalitis and was an invalid for the last sixteen years of his life.

Charles Bosselman passed away January 15, 1946. Following his death Johanna and daughter Lillie continued to live on the farm for some years, then moved to Grand Island. Johanna passed away on October 28, 1973. Both Charles and Johanna are buried at Worms in Zion Lutheran Cemetery.

Charles and Johanna's granddaughter Shirley Edwards and her family now live on and farm the home place which is now owned by Charles Orval Bosselman. *Submitted From Manuscripts by Charles Orval Bosselman, Grand Island*

ARTHUR C. BOSSELMAN

Arthur Carson Bosselman was born December 5, 1902, to Charles and Linda Klingenberg Bosselman, on the original Bosselman homeplace one mile east through the section of Worms, Nebraska in western Merrick County. . He was named for his father's father Carsten. He had a brother Lawrence who died as an infant and two sisters. Florence married John Bader (now deceased) and lives in St. Paul. Frances married John Meshalko (now deceased) and lives in Boise, Idaho. The family was all baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran in Worms where they attended church services.

Arthur married Lillian Mary Elizabeth Bader March 7, 1926. To this union were born Arthur J. March 10, 1928, and Jean Elizabeth Ann on December 31, 1926. Arthur J. has two children, Steven Joseph, born June 20, 1956, and Barbara, born September 24, 1957. He is married to Bea Hawkins. Jean married Melvin Calender August 11, 1946. To this union were born Kurt Marshall on November 2, 1954, Kim Lillian born December 14, 1955, and Robin born February 16, 1958.

Lillian Bosselman died August 20, 1954.

Arthur married Dorothy Eggers Doane on September 1, 1956. They have had a most delightful twenty-five years together.

Dorothy recalls that name changing was a common practice in the 1800's. The original Bosselman name was Von Borstelmann. The German families often came to America to avoid compulsory military training in Germany. Dorothy's grandfather was a university student in what was then Prussia. He would have had to have been in Officer's Training. In later years he often wished he could have completed his education, and missed the life he'd led at the University. Dorothy Eggers and her twin brother were named Dorothea Ammajean and Theodore Ernest. When she went to school in St. Louis she became simply Dorothy. Her twin brother died at two months of age, and Dorothy didn't know her name had been changed until many years later.

Art has had many interesting experiences and occupations in his life: he's been a lumberjack, a heavy equipment operator, and a truck driver. He wears a Stetson with an Owyhee County rattlesnake hide for a hat band, complete with seven rattles. Art and Dorothy are both retired now, she was a librarian for many years, and they live in Boise, Idaho. They enjoy reading, gardening, and visiting with their family. *Submitted by Art and Dorothy Bosselman*

JOHN & FLORENCE BADER

John Wendell Bader, son of John L. and Elizabeth Lautenschlager Bader, was born November 28, 1898, at Chapman. He had one sister and five brothers. He attended rural school at District #45 near Palmer and grew to manhood in that area. He married Florence Bosselman on January 29, 1922.

Florence Helen Marie Bosselman was born July 1, 1901, on the Bosselman farm one and a quarter miles through the section east of the community of Worms, on land her grandfather had timber-claimed some years before. Her parents were Charles and Linda Klingenberg Bosselman. She was baptized, confirmed, and received her education at Zion Lutheran in Worms. Her schooling was in the German language.

The couple farmed in the Gage Valley area until 1948 when they retired and moved to St. Paul. They had five children.

Eileen Helen, born November 23, 1922, married Bob Chapin and they live in Omaha, Nebraska. They have two boys.

Robert John, born July 22, 1924, has two sons and a daughter, and lives at Coolidge Rest Home at Palmer.

Donald Charles, born April 26, 1926, married Katherine Siemers and they live on the Bader home place in Gage Valley. They have two boys and one girl.

Shirley Ann, born May 1, 1929, married Harry Edwards and they have four girls.

Linda Louise, born April 20, 1937, married Darrell Etherton. They have two daughters and live in Minnetonka, Minnesota.



Florence and John Bader

John was one of the founders of Christ Lutheran Church in St. Paul. He and Henry Helzer acquired the charter for the church from Missouri Snyod. Armin Wagner served as first pastor there — he was also pastor at Central City at that time. Services were first held in an existing building, but the group of founders began a building of their own at 1022 Elm Street. For a number of years services were held in the basement as that was all that was finished. After John's retirement, he devoted a great deal of his energies toward completing the church.

John passed away December 2, 1977, and is buried at Elmwood Cemetery north of St. Paul. Florence continues to live alone in their home in St. Paul. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Edwards*

ALLYN & CHARLOTTE EATON

Allyn Wilder Eaton was born on January 31, 1904, at Sac City, Iowa, to Wilder H. and Carrie Hoyt Eaton. His father passed away in 1914. Allyn received his education in Manning, Iowa.

In 1924, he moved to Grand Island. He apprenticed as a mechanic and worked at that trade until World War II broke out and he became an employee of the Cornhusker Ammunition Plant. On June 30, 1940, he married Charlotte Bosselman at her home in Worms, Nebraska.



Allyn and Charotte Bosselman Eaton — 1980

In 1945, Allyn established Eaton's Garage on East Second Street in Grand Island, Nebraska. In 1945, he and his brothers-in-law, Fred and Charles Bosselman, acquired the Mack Truck franchise and established the corporation known as Bosselman and Eaton, Inc., East Lincoln Highway, Grand Island. The business included Mack Truck Sales and Service, Standard Oil Distribution, Service Station, Restaurant and rental properties.

Allyn retired September 1, 1973, after twenty-five and a half years of service. During those years he served as Vice President and President of said corporation.

Upon Allyn and Charlotte's retirement, they sold Bosselman and Eaton, Inc., back to Fred Bosselman.

Allyn is a Rotarian and a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary. He is a member of the Board of Directors and a Past President of Hall County Livestock Improvement Assocation (Fonner Park). He is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. He served on the finance committee and as an Elder of the church.

Charlotte Sophronia Bosselman was born on September 5, 1909, to Charles and Johanna Bosselman at their farm home east of Worms. She attended School District #42 North and Zion Lutheran Parochial School in Worms. She was confirmed on June 1, 1924, in Zion Lutheran Church. She graduated from the Grand Island High School in 1928, and attended Kearney State Teacher's College, University of Omaha (now U.N.O.), and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Charlotte taught school for sixteen years in Merrick County in District #17, #42, #32, and #1. She taught grades six, seven, and eight in the town school at Chapman between 1937 and 1939. Charlotte taught the fourth grade at North Ward School in Central City 1939-1940. Her last teaching position was Kindergarten and first grade at Trinity Lutheran in 1944.

From 1945 until 1948, Charlotte was bookkeeper for Eaton's Garage. Between March 1948 and September 1973 she assisted in establishing Bosselman and Eaton, Inc., along with her husband and two brothers. She served on the Board of Directors of Bosselman and Eaton, Inc., as Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice-President during the twenty-five years that they operated the corporation.

Charlotte came from pioneer stock, and has been something of a pioneer herself. She was appointed by Governor Charles Thone in April 1979 to serve on the Nebraska State Racing Commission. October 1980 Charlotte was re-elected to serve a six-year term as a Trustee of the University of Nebraska Foundation. She and Al are both members of the President's Club and the Chancellor's Club of the University of Nebraska. Charlotte was appointed to the Stuhr Museum Foundation Advisory Board in April 1981. She served on the Grand Island City Council for seven years from June 1965 through 1972. She was the first woman in Grand Island to hold the position of Council Woman.

Charlotte is Past President of Grand Island Community Chest Board of Directors and a member of the board for eight years, also a Past Campaign Director of the United Fund Drive. She is Past President of the Woman's Division of Grand Island Chamber of Commerce. She is past Secretary of Hall County Hospital Authority #1 and a former member of the Grand Island City Planning Commission. Charlotte has formerly taught Sunday School and been a member of the choir at Trinity Lutheran in Grand Island. She has served as President of Grand Island Women's Club, Liederkranz Ladies, Woodland County Club, and Ladies Aid at Trinity.

Charlotte was chosen Woman of Achievement in 1980 by the Grand Island Luncheon Business and Professional Women's Club in recognition of National Business Women's Week.

Charlotte and Allyn are members of Riverside Country Club, Liederkranz, and Saddle Club of Grand Island. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Eaton, Grand Island*

NORMAN BOSSELMAN

Norman D. H. was born September 19, 1915, to Charles and Johanna Von Aschenbeck Bosselman at their farm home one mile through the section east of Worms, Nebraska. He attended parochial school at Zion Lutheran in Worms and the College of Agriculture in Lincoln. He was awarded a medal for his participation in Intramural Wrestling in 1939. Norman and his brothers worked on the family farm.

Annetta Margaretha, daughter of Herman C. and Katie Michaelson Kuck, was born June 6, 1922. She attended school at Zion Lutheran and was confirmed in 1936.

Norman and Annetta were married at Zion Lutheran in Worms on January 18, 1942. February 12, 1942, Norman entered the Army. Following basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, he was sent to the primitive areas of western Canada and Alaska with the 340th Engineers Battalion to



Norman and Annetta Bosselman — 1981

build the Alcan Highway. Arriving back in the States eighteen months later, he was discharged at Camp Sutton, North Carolina. He and Annetta then established their home and started farming again on what had been his grandfather Carsten Bosselman's place, the Deer Lake Stock Farm. In 1978, the family was recognized by AK-SAR-BEN and the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers for having owned the farm for one hundred years.

Their son, Curtis Lee, was born September 15, 1945.

In 1962, the family moved to the farm two miles through the section from Worms that they purchased from Harold Scheer. Their farming operation included growing corn, milo, and small grain, and raising sheep, cattle and hogs. Norman helped organize and was the original leader of The Junior Farmhands 4-H Club. Between 1956 and 1963, he took the youngsters on field trips and assisted them with their exhibits at the Merrick County Fairs.

The family as been life-long members of Zion Lutheran Church in Worms. Annetta has been a member of Dorcas Ladies' Aid, serving in several offices through the years. She was also a member for some years of the Cheerie Center Club. Norman has been on various congregational committees and has served his church as an elder.

In June 1980, Norman and Annetta moved to Grand Island, but they still consider Worms Community their own, and continue their membership in Zion Lutheran. Both are interested in antiques and collectibles, and enjoy gardening and travelling. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Bosselman*

HARRY & SHIRLEY EDWARDS

Harry Charles Edwards, son of Wilbur James and Mamie Lorraine McClanahan Edwards, was born August 22, 1930, at home on the farm at Chambers, Nebraska, in Holt County. Wilbur had been raised in Kansas and Mamie was a Chambers native. He attended rural grade school. In 1938, the family moved to a farm one and a half miles east of Cushing. Harry, his two brothers and one sister all attended high school at Cushing. Harry was in the Navy from September 21, 1951 through September 1955. He served in Korea in 1952-53, and was aboard the USS Repose, AH16 Hospital Ship for a time. He married Shirley Ann Bader January 5, 1958.

Shirley Ann, daughter of Florence Helen Marie Bosselman Bader and John Wendell Bader, was born May 1, 1929 at home on the farm in Gage Valley. She was confirmed at St. John's Lutheran in Palmer and graduated from St. Paul High School in 1946. She taught school at Districts #39 and #29 in Howard County and continued her education at Kearney State Teacher's College. Her last two years of teaching, 1950-52, were at District #29 at Chapman — nine grades and thirty-two pupils.

Harry and Shirley have four girls. Ann Lee, born May 23, 1953, lives in Grand Island. She has three children: Heidi Marie, born October 28, 1975; Heather Lynn, born June 24, 1977, and John Charles, born October 26, 1978. The family attends Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Island, where Heidi also attends school. Beth Lynn, born February 1, 1959, was confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Worms and graduated from Central City High School in 1977. She graduated from Mary Lanning School of Nursing in Hastings, Nebraska, in 1980, and is now a Registered Nurse at Mary Lanning Hospital there.

Kim Marie, born February 3, 1960, attended grade school at Zion Lutheran at Worms, graduated from Central City High School in 1978, and also attended Mary Lanning School of Nursing. She graduated from there in 1981 and is working at Bryan Memorial Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Tina Louise, the youngest daughter, is a student at Central City High School and will graduate in 1982. She was born August 29, 1964, and baptized, confirmed, educated to the eighth grade in Worms at Zion.

The Edwards family resides one and a quarter miles east through the section from Worms on the farm established by Shirley's great-grandfather Carsten Bosselman in 1878. They attend Zion Lutheran Church where Harry served on the Parish Board for six years and is now a Trustee. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Edwards*



Harry Edwards Family — Kim, Harry, Ann, Beth, Shirley, Tina





Curtis Lee and Paula Elizabeth Bosselman — Wedding — 1966 Gothenburg Methodist Church
15th Anniversary — 1981

CURTIS & PAULA BOSSELMAN

Curtis Lee, son of Norman and Annetta Kuck Bosselman, was born September 15, 1945. He was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran in Worms where he has been a life-long member. He grew up on his father's farm one and a half miles east of Worms. He graduated from Grand Island Senior High in 1963. He received a degree in Industrial Arts from Kearney State College in 1968.

Paula Elizabeth, daughter of Paul Eugene and Geraldine Elizabeth Wilmeth Haynes, was born January 26, 1946, in Gothenburg, Nebraska, where her father was a well driller for twenty-five years. She graduated from Gothenburg High School in 1963 and went on to Kearney State College, majoring in English, Library Science, and Educational Psychology. She was confirmed in the Methodist Church in 1959.

Curtis and Paula were married August 14, 1966, and Curtis entered the Army in December 1968. Trained in tracked and wheeled vehicle maintenance, Curt was levied into the Army Security Agency, spending ten months in Viet Nam in 1970.

Both are active charter members of The Mid-Nebraska Corvette Club. Curtis served as President in 1977, Paula served as Secretary in 1978 and 1979, and is currently on the board of directors as Historian. They have owned Corvettes since 1966. Both are private pilots, currently owning a 1951 Cessna 170A, N170AA, they land in neighbor James Bremer's alfalfa field and tie down in their own front yard. The couple belongs to several flying organizations: International and Nebraska Flying Farmers, The Experimental Aircraft Assocation, Aircraft Owners and Pilot's Association and The International Cessna 170 Association, which Paula serves as editor of their quarterly magazine.

In addition to living all across the United States during their Army tour, the couple has travelled a great deal, part of it in conjunction with drag racing. The couple is interested in stained glass, specializing in flat custom work, with Curtis doing glass etching. Paula has taught the craft to others. A proud possession of the couple is a stained glass window in their home made by Paula as a gift to Curtis to commemorate the Carsten Bosselman Family receiving a Pioneer Farm Award for 100 Years of Continuous Farm Ownership in the State of Nebraska as of 1978. Paula completed Onen R. Simonson's term on the Merrick County Fair Board and serves as Clerk for the Election Board in Prairie Creek Township. She has been a member of the Merrick County History Book Committee. Curtis currently serves his township as Treasurer, is a member of the American Legion and A.A.L. Paula is a member of Business and Professional Women, Luncheon Group, Grand Island, and the Ninety-Nines, an organization of women pilots. She is tower chief and editor of the newsletter for Kearney Dragway and a member since 1976 of the Cheerie Center Club. She sews, quilts, plays the piano and organ and loves puppies. Curtis was one of the

original members of the Junior Farmhands 4-H Club, organized by his father. He enjoys mechanics, flying, and metal work.

The couple now owns the farm known as the Bill Bader Farm, purchased from Curtis' folks in 1980 upon their retirement. The farm is two miles through the section east of Worms. *Submitted by Paula and Curtis Bosselman*

MOLLIE BOTSCH



Mollie Botsch — 102 years old.

Mollie Fishler Botsch was born at Bagley, Wisconsin, August 28, 1878. She is an interesting, alert, sweet lady, 102 years "young," living at Bethesda Care Center, Central City, for five years.

Mollie recalls that her grandfather, Frank Fishler, wife and three children came from Germany. Her grandmother died on the way and was buried at sea about 1860.

Her father, John Fishler, married Teresa Holthouse, and Mollie was third in a family of eleven. The Fishler family moved to Morse Bluff, Nebraska when Mollie was very young. She says they were a happy family not having much money but a good living raising their own meat, vegetables and dried fruits. The family went by horse and buggy to Prague, Nebraska to the Catholic Church where she was confirmed. Besides helping their parents on the farm, the children enjoyed playing ball in the farm pasture.

The most exciting experience she recalls is the "Blizzard of '88." She was ten years old, attending a country school in Saunders County. Her father tried to get to school with horses and buggy but couldn't make it, so some neighbors came in a sled and got the children home safely. She says it was terribly cold, and one of their cows froze to death near the barn.

She also remembers Indians coming to their house begging for food. Her mother would give them some of her homemade bread.

As a teenager Mollie learned to cook and sew. She then worked out in homes in Schuyler for $1.00 a week and also worked in a cafe at North Bend.

Mollie met her future husband, George Botsch, at a country dance. They were married at the home of Peter and Barbara Botsch, George's parents, near Schuyler, Nebraska on October 11, 1898. George had a broom making business in their home, and they farmed near Schuyler for eleven years. They moved to a farm southeast of Leigh where they lived for thirty-three years, retiring to Leigh in 1942.

They had five children. The first daughter died at three weeks of age, and Gladys died in 1934. Verna, married to Paul Deichmann, lives in Central City. Donald and Glenn live south of Leigh. She has eight grandchildren, thirty-one great-grandchildren and fourteen great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Botsch celebrated their seventy-first wedding anniversary in October, 1969, and George died November 30 that year. After his death, Mollie lived alone two years and then with her children before entering nursing homes at Genoa and Central City. Mollie became a member of the Lutheran Church after her marriage and is now a member of St. Johns Church at Leigh.

During her lifetime, she has always been active in church and club activities. As a hobby she has braided many rugs which she has given to relatives and friends. (Mollie Botsch died in 1981) *This was written by Granddaughter Myrna Rae Frenzen.*

HARRY BOULTON FAMILY

Harry and Gladys Boulton first came to the Central City area on March 1, 1931, moving to a farm northeast of the city.

Gladys Lauritson Boulton was raised in Trenton, Nebraska. She attended Doane College and the University of Nebraska. She taught school for seven years. While teaching in Juniata, Nebraska, she met and married Harry Boulton on September 18, 1928.

Harry was born at Juniata, Nebraska, and lived there until he and Gladys moved to Central City. The family lived on the farm until the fall of 1951 when, due to Harry's health, they moved into town. Harry then drove a tank wagan for the Alma Oil Company. Gladys worked in the County Treasurer's Office and then was County Welfare Director until her retirement.

They have three children. Their oldest daughter, Polly Jo Loxterman, now resides in Houston, Texas. Marie, Polly's oldest daughter, was married Aug. 16, 1980, at Fort Worth, Texas, and is now living in Huntsville, Alabama. Russell, Polly's son, is attending school at Purdue University, and Barbara is attending the University of Indiana. Harry and Glady's son, James E. Boulton, lives in Central City with his wife, Janet (Pfenning) and their daughter Kelly, who is now a 9th grader, and their son, Michael, a 6th grader. The younger Boulton daughter, Verna (Mrs. James Roman), lives in Houston, Texas, with her husband and eight-year-old twins, Josh and Jenny.

Harry was a member of the Masonic Order. Both he and Gladys belonged to the Order of Eastern Star. Gladys is a 50-year member of that order. Both belonged to the United Presbyterian Church in Central City, and at the present time, Gladys is a Ruling Elder of the church. Harry passed away in October of 1971. *Submitted by Gladys Boulton*

ROBERT W. BOYD FAMILY

Robert W. Boyd and wife, Susan, and family migrated in a covered wagon from Roane County, Tennessee, to Lone Tree Precinct, Merrick County, Nebraska, in 1872, after the Civil War. They settled on the north side of the Platte River south of Central City.

Robert W. Boyd, son of Hugh or Hugo Boyd, was born in Carter County, Tennessee, on July 25, 1817. He was married in Carter County to Susan J. DeLozier, born November 20, 1820. Mr. Boyd had been a successful merchant and plantation owner, but lost everything during the Civil War.

Robert W. Boyd died May 13, 1889. Susan Boyd died November 30, 1893. Both are buried in Richland Cemetery, southwest of Marquette in Hamilton County, Nebraska.

They brought slaves with them from Tennessee, who took the name of Boyd when freed. The mother Lucinda and son Peter were both born in North Carolina. Lewis Johnson was listed in the June 1, 1885, Merrick County Census.

Robert W. Boyd was listed as a clergyman by the 1885 Merrick County, Lone Tree Census. The children of Robert and Susan Boyd are as follows: Eveline, Lipniah, Simon, Henry, John, Robert, Mirah, Tennessee, Mary, Mildred, and Susan. Mildred married John Gorin. Their story is under Gorin in this book.

Simon P. Boyd was born in Roane County, Tennessee, Nov. 29, 1859. He came with his parents, Robert and Susan Boyd to Lone Tree Precinct in 1872. Simon married Cora A. —— , who was born September 24, 1869. Simon P. Boyd died April 13, 1906 and Cora died May 15, 1930. Both are buried in Richland Cemetery, Marquette, Hamilton County, Nebraska.

Henry Boyd was born in 1852 to Robert and Susan Boyd, in Roane County, Tennessee. He was married to Ella Foster. Later they moved to Mason City, Nebraska. Henry and Ella had three children: R. V., James and Vola.

John Boyd came to Lone Tree Precinct with his parents Robert and Susan Boyd in 1872. He married and later moved to Palisade, Hitchcock County, Nebraska. They had ten children: Jim, George, Nina, Leslie, Ford, Lea, Beatrice, and three others. Unable to support their large family on their homestead because of grasshoppers and drought, they moved to Canon City, Colorado, or nearby. The children are probably scattered to several states.

Robert W. Boyd was born in Tennessee in 1862 to Robert and Susan Boyd, and came with his parents to Lone Tree Precinct in 1872. He married Ella Murphy, and had four children: Walter, Basil, May, and Hazel. They lived several years in Aurora, Nebraska. They later moved to Ogallala, Nebraska and then in later years to Denver, Colorado.

Mariah Boyd was born in 1846 in Roane County, Tennessee and came with her parents, Robert and Susan Boyd, to Lone Tree Precinct in 1872. Marlah was married to Charles Dyche.

Susan Boyd was born in 1849 in Roane County, Tennessee and came with her parents, Robert and Susan Boyd, to Lone Tree Precinct in 1872. Susan was married to William Harvill (Howell).

Tennesse Boyd was born in Roane County, Tennessee and came to Lone Tree Precinct in 1872 with her parents, Robert and Susan Boyd. Tennessee was married to —— Johnson.

Mary Boyd was born in Roane County, Tennessee and came to Lone Tree Precinct in 1872 with her parents, Robert and Susan Boyd. Mary married John Bacon. They lived in Ravenna several years where John was the janitor of the school. Mary died in the 1920's. Their children were Drew, Joe, Susan, Anna, Jennie, Bertha and May. *Submitted by Mrs. Louie Miller*

BRAGE-HAYES

Louise Brage, only daughter of David and Christine Brage, was born January 10, 1863 in Pomerania, Germany. At the age of six the family emigrated to the United States, settling in Juda, Wisconsin in 1869. Moving by covered wagon to Central City, Nebraska in the fall of 1883, settling on a 160 acre farm six and one-fourth miles north of town.

Thanksgiving Day November 27, 1890 Louise was united in marriage to William B. Hayes by Elder K. Pierce, Pastor of Pierce Chapel. Mr. Hayes was born near Battersea, London, England, May 20, 1863; took over the management of the farm and helped care for her aged father who passed away June 6, 1896. Mr. Hayes was active in local affairs; member of Pierce Chapel M.E. Church, Color Sergeant in Company K National Guard during the Sioux uprising, served on election board, Justice of the Peace of Mead Township and member of District 21 school board. Louise and her husband became sole owners of the farm when her brother George Frederick Brage of Dallas, Texas died December 10, 1918. After Mr. Hayes' death February 28, 1922, Louise continued to live on the farm until her death May 4, 1938; living on the same place for fifty-four years. The farm was soon sold to Dood Morman of Iowa.

Five children were born to this union: Mary, born April 22, 1892 lived on the farm with her mother,

later was employed by Dr. Ralph Weaver of Marquette, Nebraska as office nurse. She is still living in Cumberland, Iowa; Grace, born August 17, 1894, married Walter Bannister and lived in Central City area and still does; Laura, born November 3, 1896 married Oscar Mills and lived at Wymore, Nebraska, died September 25, 1966; Frederick born March 24, 1899, died April 14, 1968, was married to Hannah Thompson of Curtis, Nebraska, now resides at McCook, Nebraska; William, born October 12, 1903, died October 28, 1927 of meningitis.
Written by Mary Hayes



George Fredrick Brage — 1888

G.F. BRAGE

George Frederick, son on Mr. and Mrs. David Brage, was born at Schwenbeck, Prussia, Germany, July 25, 1851. The Brage family, consisting of George, his parents, two brothers and a sister, Louise, immigrated to America in 1869 from Hamburg, Germany on a steamer, "Harmonica".

They located first at Juda, Wisconsin, near relatives. Later they moved to Boone, Iowa. In October of 1883, they moved by covered wagon to a farm six and one half miles north of Central City, Nebraska, later known as the Hayes farm.

An architect by trade, George Brage drew the plans for the I.V. Traver home. This home later became the Merrick County Historical Museum. He also designed the Nebraska Central College which is now Nebraska Christian High School. His plans were drawn on fine, starched blued muslin. When he was finished with a project, his mother washed the fabric, which became very soft. She then used it to make under clothing for the family.

Mr. Brage was a member of the firm of Rittenhouse and Brage, Practical Designers and Consulting Architects in Grand Island, Nebraska in the 1890's. Later, he joined the Hubbel and Green firm in Dallas, Texas. He was a 32nd degree Mason. Mr. Brage passes away in Dallas on December 10, 1918. As he had never married, he was buried at Central City, with Masonic rites, in his father's plot.



"The Tower — Old Main"



"Old Main"



I.V. Traver Home



Nebraska Central College. **L-r** — Whittier Hall, Old Main, Hord Hall.



CARL BRANDES FAMILY

Carl and Ida Bauman Brandes were married March 6, 1912, in Platte County, Nebraska. Ida had lived near Silver Creek in Merrick County at one time, but met and married Carl in Columbus, Nebraska.

The young couple moved to the farm north and west of Central City, known as the Allie Grotelueschen farm in 1915. Their first child, Harold, was born in January, 1916 and the following March they moved to a Litzenberg farm in Mead Township. They had two more sons, George and Earl.

Ida was known for her cooking and baking. Angel food cakes were a specialty. Of course, in those days she raised the chickens, gathered the eggs, and baked her cakes in a wood fueled cookstove in a kitchen that measured 6′ x 12′. The water pump was outside the kitchen door.

The farm home was small with a wood heating stove in the winter time and three boys in one bed upstairs so they could keep warm. This arrangement didn't always contribute to peace and quiet!

Ida was a loving and caring mother and would always give a helping hand to her friends and neighbors. She helped pick corn, milked cows and shared with her sons her love and sense of humor. She was plagued with fragile health and her greatest trial came with World War II when two of her sons were in the service. The boys returned safely home but her health had failed and she died May 20, 1946 at the age of fifty-four years.

Carl's father died when Carl was eleven and he was left with his mother and a small sister. He "worked out" from that time and was a hard working, conservative farmer. Carl had a sense of the future and was one of the first to use extensive land leveling for irrigation.

In 1935 he had a 21 inch Woods Brothers threshing machine and Carl, with his three sons, had a threshing run. These "good old times" lead to many stories from neighbors about the older men "goadin' " the youngsters into hauling the biggest loads of bundles and the jokes that were played on each other as the hard work of the day progressed.



Carl and Ida Brandes — 1943



Earl Brandes Family — 1969
L-r — Roger, Earl, Gail, Alice, Evan.

The first farm Carl and Ida bought was in 1927 and their son George lives on the farm now. Carl walked from where he lived to this farm, about a mile, to work each day to save money. It was many years before the land was paid for and by this time the three sons were part of the farming operation.

Carl worked for many years with the Mead Telephone Company, the Mead Township board and always thought it most important that he and Ida vote at all elections.

After he retired from the active business of farming he always was available to drive the tractor. He died in July 1962 after a short illness. He and Ida are both buried in the Central City Cemetery.

In 1961 the land operation was formed into Brandes Inc. Carl and Ida passed their love for the good earth and farming on to their three sons and now their grandchildren are enjoying the love of farm and no matter where the children wander "coming home" is to the farm where Carl and Ida lived so long. *Submitted by Earl and Alice Brandes*

EARL BRANDES FAMILY

Earl and I met in June 1945. Earl was home on leave from the U.S. Marine Corps. Iow Jima was his last campaign and after six years in the service he was happy to be back in Nebraska!

Both of our parents had lived in Merrick County for years. Earl's parents, Carl and Ida Brandes came from Colfax County and mine, Frank and Ruby Chrisp came from Custer and Seward Counties.

After our marriage on October 6, 1946, we lived in Central City where Earl worked for Larson's Chevrolet Company and I worked in the offices of the County Judge and Clerk of the District Court. Then in 1951 we sold our town lot where we had planned to build a new house, cashed in our bonds, bought a tractor and moved to what was known as the Grant Moe farm ten miles north of Central City. The first few years were spent renovating our farm home, leveling land for irrigation and learning how many things can go wrong when you have cattle and crops.

With all the ups and downs, we wouldn't have traded places with anyone. The farm was a good place to raise our three children, Roger, Gail and Evan. They grew up near their cousins, and family dinners, weiner roasts, ice skating and attending District #19 school where their fathers had gone to school, are some of the good times we remember.

The Fairview Methodist Church was a great part of our family life and gave us a place to worship, sing, play and share with our neighbors. The Ferris swimming pool, 4-H, school and church activities kept us busy and our children were always busy working on a project.

Earl was always busy working on his favorite project — taxes! He worked with several organizations appearing at the State Legislature, writing letters and in 1966 he chaired the organization of the consolidating of the rural and city school districts. He served on the school board for several years and then in 1971 he was elected to serve as a director on the Southern Nebraska Public Power District Board.

I enjoyed being a 4-H Leader, held various offices in the church and at the present time I'm the historian on the Nebraska Council of Home Extension Clubs. A hobby I've enjoyed for years is drawing house plans for new or used homes. There were many opportunities to wield my pencil and eraser as the families of the Brandes brothers changed from babies to teenagers and then as two sons came back to become involved in the farming operation. Roger and his family are now living in the house that his grandparents moved into in 1916, Harold and Berniece lived in it from 1945 till 1965 and that we all lived in for short periods of time while other homes were being remodeled.

Roger, our first son, was born in the Hord Memorial Hospital and after graduating from Central City High School received a Technical Degree in Agriculture from the Nebraska Technical School in Hasting in 1969. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1969 and served three years active duty, one tour of Viet Nam and worked as a crew chief and maintenance of helicopters. He married Sharon Anderson in 1972. She attended the University of Nebraska and has her Certificate in Dental Hygiene. They have three children, Jarrod, Kane and Jess.

Our daughter, Gail, was a Home Economist and Extension Agent in Cass County for five years. She married Randall Schilling, who was the manager of the Plattsmouth Waterfowl Refuge after his graduation from the University of Nebraska. He was killed in an airplane crash in 1979 while working for the Park and Game Commission. Their son, Eric, was born later in 1979. In 1981 Gail completed her Master of Science Degree in Education and Family Resources. She is married to Douglas Brand, Vice President of Agricultural Loans, Jones National Bank in Seward, Nebraska.

Evan has his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Education. He married Roxanne

McHargue in 1975 and has two daughters, Carly and Cortney. Roxanne graduated from the Bryan School of Nursing and is a registered nurse.

Roger and Evan are now in a partnership with their father as Brandes & Sons. They are carrying on the tradition of conservation and good farming practices, working with their uncles, George and Harold and raising their families in Merrick County, a good place to live. *Submitted by Alice Brandes*

GEORGE BRANDES FAMILY

Our "roots" in Merrick County are deep and strong. George was born the middle son of Carl and Ida Brandes who lived on a farm located seven miles north and three-fourths mile west of Central City. Except for three and a half years spent in the Air Force during World War II, George has lived either at the family home or our home which is a mile east of the family home. George and his two brothers, Harold and Earl, attended District #19. Many a cold morning saw all three boys riding "Old Sam", the horse, to school.

I had known George since I was about ten years old as my parents, Joe and Florence Culbertson, had come to Merrick County after Dad was "cut-off" from the railraod during the depression. Fate is funny at times — Daddy came to Nebraska, hoping to find work as a hired man on a farm.. His first job was picking corn for Carl Brandes. We lived then where George and I now live. The house is a different one (thank goodness) but the spot is the same. Daddy was later reinstated on the railroad and we moved back to Kansas.



Beth, George, Sara and Nadine Brandes

In 1947, George and I were married. We have two daughters, Beth and Sara. Both girls love their birthplace and thoroughly enjoy coming home, visiting friends and relatives and taking part in farm activities. Beth lives in Lincoln and works for the State Health Department as an area supervisor in Home Health Care Nursing. Sara lives in Brush, Colorado, where she works as the sports and news director for an AM and FM Radio Station. In the early years of our marriage, baseball was an important part of our recreation. Kernel Field was built the year before we were married and both George and Earl loved playing on the ball team at Kernel Field and in the Cornhusker League.

Fairview Church has played a big part in our lives, serving us both spiritually and socially. Many hours have been spent in the service of this church, but many more benefits have been received.

Life has moved quite swiftly — it is hard to realize the many changes we have seen in farming operations during the thirty-four years of our marriage. Everything is on such a large scale today — big machinery, large irrigation systems, heavy amounts of fertilizer, etc. At the time of our marriage, television was only a word heard when speaking of things to come, yet our girls cannot remember a world without television.

We have been happy working the land along with George's two brothers and their families. Sara summed up our family's feelings for Merrick County with a classic remark she made as we were returning from a two weeks vacation to California and the mountains of Colorado. As we were within four miles of home, she turned to her Dad and said, "See, Daddy, we didn't see anything this pretty the whole time we were gone."

The good life moves on! *Submitted by Nadine Brandes (Mrs. George Brandes)*

HAROLD & BERNIECE BRANDES

It was a nice but windy Sunday morning on September 17, 1939. The regular morning churchgoers at the Zion Evangelical Church at Archer were listening to the last of the church service when the music turned to the Wedding March. This was the wedding day of Harold and Berniece Brandes.

The young couple worked in Central City, Berniece at Hudgens Variety Store and Harold at the Farmers Union Store. They lived in the Grace Clark Apartments and were the proud owners of a 1938 Ford Coupe.

Only a young bride would know the panic of arriving at her apartment after work with a half pound of hamburger to find Harold's parents and their friends, Allie and Eva Groteleuschen had driven into town to have supper with Harold and Berniece. She was frantically trying to figure out how she was going to stretch the hamburger when everyone laughed and brought forth a supper, already prepared, from their picnic baskets.

Carl and Ida Brandes were Harold's parents and he attended District #19 and high school with his two brothers, George and Earl. He loved mechanical things and learned to drive at an early age. When his folks were away he would start the car, back it out of the garage, back and forth, then was very careful to brush the tracks away before Dad got home.

Berniece's parents.were Albert and Martha Wegner Suck. She attended school and lived on a farm near Palmer until her marriage.

In 1943 Harold and Berniece moved to the farm to help his father when both of his brothers were in service. When brother George was discharged the two brothers took over the farming and formed the Brandes Brothers partnership in 1947.

Berniece and Harold's two daughters, Connie and Cheryl, were born while the family lived in the farm home where Harold's parents had lived since 1916.

Life was busy, the Fairview church was an important part of their lives, Berniece sang in the choir and both held offices and shared their talents and friendship with the people of the community. Sundays found them visiting or having friends for dinner. 4-H, county fairs, school activities and the work and fun of farming with brothers and their families leaves those years with many memories.



Harold and Berniece Brandes — 1979

Connie graduated from the Methodist School of Nursing as a registered nurse in 1968. She had always wanted to be a nurse but still loved to help her dad irrigate or rake hay. Connie was married to James Greenwood in 1969 and was working as a nurse at the Dodge County hospital at the time of her death in 1973.

Cheryl was her big sister's tag-a-long, loved school and now has her Master of Science Degree in Education, Guidance and Counseling. She is now married to Steven Rose and has two children, Shan and Risa.

Harold and Berniece love to travel and enjoy seeing their many friends and relatives, but they always hurry back home to enjoy their grandchildren, the spring work and their house in the.country. *Submitted by Berniece Brandes*

FRANCIS & ISABELL BRANNAN

Francis Brannan and his wife Isabell Cannon came to Merrick County on March 16, 1881. Francis was born May 16, 1827, in Columbia County, Ohio, the son of Frank (Francis) and Margaret Martin Brannan. Frank Brannan was a native of Ireland.

Isabell Cannon was born January 8, 1830, in Westmoreland County, Pa. Her parents were John and Nancy Cannon.

Francis and Isabell were married. on December 27, 1852, in Williams County, Ohio. Their children were: John, 1853 (died as a child); Francis J. (Fant), August 12, 1855-September 15, 1887; Nancy (Mrs. Samuel D. Ayers), January 22, 1858-October 9, 1936; Howard M., February 7, 1860-March 5, 1935; Louise, February 26, 1862-January 12, 1937; Lurenah, July 12, 1864-September 15, 1884; Robert C., 1866-August 24, 1951; Ulysses S. Grant, 1868-1918; and Margaret (Maggie), (Mrs. Wm. McCullough).

Francis served eleven months in the Civil War as a Corp. of George Wesbey's Co., 4th Reg. of the Ohio Infantry, Veterans Volunteers. He enlisted on October 27, 1864, and was discharged August 11, 1865 at Little Rock, Arkansas.

All of the Brannan children came to Merrick County with their parents. They lived southwest of Central City on what is know as the McCullough Ranch. They lived on the farm till the spring of 1894, when they moved to Central City.

Isabell suffered a paralytic stroke and was an invalid for several years before her death on September 1, 1904. Following her death, Francis was cared for by their daughter Louise until his death on March 6, 1910. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Francis Brannan*

FRANCIS & VERA BRANNAN

I will begin this story with a brief history of our parents. Francis' parents, Howard M. and Mary L. (Minnie) Copeland Brannan were both born in Ohio. Howard came to Merrick County in 1881 with his family. He returned to Ohio in January 1888 to marry Mary Copeland. They spent six years in Perkins County before moving to the farm near Archer where they lived for the remainder of their lives.

My father, Eli Lawton Wiles was born in Wilkes County, North Carolina, on November 26, 1883. When he was eighteen he came to Schuyler, Nebraska, where he worked on a farm. My mother, Emma Louise Brummer, was born in Iowa County, Wisconsin, on December 11, 1881. She came to Nebraska to visit her sister and worked at the Fuller Ranch nearby. They were married April 2, 1907. In 1910 they moved to Merrick County with their two daughters. They farmed forty years and retired in Central City.

Francis Brannan was born August 22, 1906, near Archer. He attended District #24 and Archer High Schools. He was in the United States Marine Corps

from 1926-1930, serving twenty-seven months in Hawaii. He worked at Woodward's Grocery Store in Archer before moving to the farm in 1936.

I, Vera Elizabeth Wiles, was born July 5, 1908, at Schuyler, Nebraska. I attended District #25, Clarks High School and Nebraska Central College. While teaching District #24, I met Francis. We were married February 22, 1936. We moved to the farm eight miles northeast of Central City where we lived and farmed for forty-two and a half years. We moved to 2613 Terry Lane on September 1, 1978. We are active members of the Central City Methodist Church.

We have three daughters: Donna Louise born April 10, 1940, Mary Elizabeth born December 11, 1942, and Elaine Ann born November 5, 1944. They attended school at District #50, District #21, and graduated from Central City High School.

Donna married Oren Skiles. They have three children, Diedre Michelle, Kurt Kenneth, and Stacy Louise. They live in Ottawa, Kansas. Oren is Director of the Department of Public Safety and Donna is a teacher.

Mary married Charles Eckery. They have three children, Douglas Francis, Daniel Lee, and Debra Elizabeth. They live in Loveland, Colorado. Chuck works at Hewlitt-Packard and Mary is a secretary at Great Western Sugar Company.

Elaine completed nurses' training at Methodist Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, and now works at St. Lukes Hospital in Houston, Texas.

While the girls were growing up, we were all active in 4-H. During this time I completed fifteen years as a leader. A memorable 4-H event for Francis and me was hleping Helen Solt sponsor 31 4-Hers on a bus trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the Citizenship Short Course.

We enjoy . traveling. We try to be with each of our grandchildren on their birthdays. Since our retirement we have spent winters in Florida and North Carolina, Phoenix, Arizona, and Texas. We have toured all the Southern states. This September we enjoyed the Senior Citizens Tour to Northeastern United States, Nova Scotia, and Canada. *Written by Mrs. Francis (Vera E.) Brannan*

HOWARD & MINNIE BRANNAN

Howard Brannan, born February 7, 1860, in Williams County, Ohio, came to Nebraska in 1881 with his parents, Francis and Isabell Cannon Brannan. Francis and Isabell and family lived three and one half miles southwest of Central City. In 1885, Howard and his brother Robert homesteaded in Perkins County near Grant, Nebraska.

On January 17, 1888, Howard married Mary L. Copeland in Montpelier, Ohio. Mary, who was also called Minnie, was born July 19, 1865, in Williams County, Ohio, the daughter of James Joshua Copeland and Henrietta Crab.

James and Henrietta Copeland's children were: Mary, Nettie Della (Mrs. Samuel Elmer Campbell), George Melvin, Ernest John, and Henrietta Bell (Mrs. Russell J. Kyes). Henrietta Copeland died shortly after the birth of her fifth child. James Copeland married Susan Walz and they had three children, Frank, Alta, and Charles.

The Copeland, Cannon, Crab, and Brannan families all lived as neighbors in Superior Township, Williams County, Ohio.

During the drought of 1894 Howard, Mary and their three sons, Earl Fant born February 3, 1889, Loren born November 26, 1890, and Melvin C. born September 25, 1893 returned to Merrick County. They settled on a farm three miles east of Archer. Six more children were born to the family. They were Arthur Dean born September 5, 1895, Hazel Belle (Mrs. Lloyd Leamons, Sr.) born September 12, 1897, Geneva (Mrs. P. C. Woodward) born May 5, 1899, Mertice Leoma (Mrs. Robert Smith) born May 16, 1901, Francis born August 22, 1906, and Glenn Herbert born June 22, 1908.

On August 4, 1913 Minnie died unexpectedly from a ruptured appendix. In 1918, Howard married Clara Haskins.

Howard was a farmer all his life. He helped to secure a carload of flour in Merrick County to send to starving people in drought stricken Russia. He supported education by serving on the school board, and was a charter member of the Congregational Church at Grant, Nebraska. For eighteen years he was a member of the official board of the Presbyterian Church in Central City. The last years of his life he was a faithful member of the Methodist Church in Archer.

Howard died on March 5, 1935, after suffering a stroke and being bedfast for several weeks. Four of the Brannan children spent most of their lives in Merrick County. Loren farmed the home place until he retired when it was sold to his daughter Aunilee and Marvin Kiser. Thus the land that was important to the Brannan family is still owned by the family. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Francis Brannan*

LOREN & IONA BRANNAN

Loren Brannan was born November 26, 1890 and moved to a farm 2 miles east of Archer with his parents, Howard and Minnie Brannan, and eight brothers and sisters.

In 1917 Iona Shull came to make her home with the Lee Ranken family and teach District #24 School.

On June 12, 1919 Iona and Loren were married in Grand Island, Nebraska.

To this couple four children were born, one-half mile north of Archer where they lived.

Aunilee Brannan Kiser, April 22, 1920, of Central City; Lila Belle Brannan Mapps, October 4, 1923, Marshall, Texas; Ralph T. Brannan, January 22, 1925, of Rockhill, South Carolina; and Maxine Brannan Leahy, April 29, 1930, of St. Louis, Missouri.

Loren farmed, also helped deliver mail by horses and sled during bad winter weather for Buren Wells. He also worked hard for the Farmers Union Association.

He loved to walk the one-half mile to Archer to shoot the breeze with the boys at the Bonness Store in the Long winter evenings.

In 1936 they moved two miles east to the old Brannan homestead which they bought. In 1945 they moved to Central City. Loren was Manager for the City Sewer Disposal Plant. Iona worked for Dr. Grieving for several years. She also was Librarian at Hord Memorial Library.

Their family and Church were their main interest. They had so much company that it kept them young. Loren is ninety years old and Iona was eighty-six years old December the 22nd, and they are living in their own home. *Written by Daughter Aunilee*

"GUST" BRANTING

History of "Gust" Branting, once a resident of Merrick County, Nebraska years ago.

Gust Branting's father brought his family to America from Döderhult, Kalmar, Sweden, in 1871, and settled in Varna, Illinois, where Gust Branting grew up. Gust was born in Sweden, May 1, 1867. He moved to Polk County, Nebraska, in 1886, and married Ida Matilda Tolin, June 3, 1888, in Swede Home village, Polk County; Rev. Nordling read the marriage lines. They had a family of six children: four sons — Roy, Arvid, Melvin and Reuben; two daughters — Effie (Mrs. Shalberg), and Martha.



Gust Branting Family
Back l-r — Gust, Roy, Ida, Arvid. **Front l-r** — Melvin, Effie, Rueben, Martha.

My father, Gust Branting, moved his family from Polk County to Merrick County, Nebraska, in 1898. We lived one mile south from Clarks. As children we watched the trains go by one half mile from our place, and we watched the covered wagons go West. Late one afternoon some people in a covered wagon stopped by our home and asked my father if they could camp all night across the road, which was a hay meadow. He gave his permission. They watered their horses at our place. When my father got up the next morning, he saw they were gone. He went to do his chores, he noticed the pasture fence next to where they had stayed was broken down and he became uneasy and checked his cattle and found one steer missing. He looked further and found tracks on the road where they had driven away. He got on a horse and followed their tracks, crossing the Platte River and on until he caught up with them, eight miles away, and they had his white faced Hereford steer. He got his animal back and came home later that day.

Gust Branting moved his family back to Polk County in 1903, where he farmed until 1913. He had bought a section of land in Lincoln County, Nebraska. Due to the death of their daughter, Martha, moving to Lincoln County was delayed until April, 1913, when he moved his family West. He lived on his farm there until 1924, when he retired. He built a house on the south edge of North Platte, Nebraska. They lived there until his wife passed away, May 1, 1946.

Mr. and Mrs. Branting celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1938, and a newspaper article of that time, contained an interesting note reflecting his thought that "modern machinery (had) harmed the farmers more than any one thing": "While on his farm on the Jackmore flats, Mr. Branting declared he always employed three or four hired men, but today his tenant uses machinery and one man. He explained money for machinery goes to eastern capital, while wages are spent here." Mr. Branting's closing thought was: "The farmer produces the food for the nation, and he should not be in want."

Gust moved to Rockford, Illinois and remarried in July, 1947, and lived in Rockford until his death, September 7, 1952. Gust and Ida Branting are buried south of North Platte, Nebraska. *Submitted by Mrs. Effie (Branting) Shalberg and Thomas E. Kelly.*

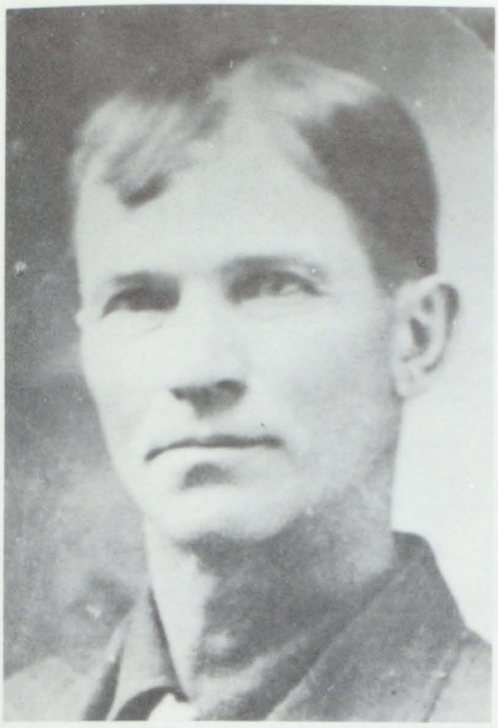
NELS PETER HUGO BRANTING

Nels Peter Hugo Branting, was born June 29, 1863, at Döderhult, Småland, Sweden, son of Per Johan (1831-1881) and Lena Maria (Peterson) Branting (1829-1906). In 1871, he accompanied his parents to America, and settled near Varna, Illinois. Local tradition says this family lived in a log cabin, along a creek, near Varna. Several members of the family, including the father, died of typhoid fever, during the winter of 1881, said to have been contracted by drinking water from the creek. The father, two children, and a son-in-law, are buried in an abandoned cemetery, north of Varna.

Eventually, Mrs. Branting, and some of her children, came to Nebraska and settled in Polk County, in the Polk-Swede Home area. Lena Branting died at Swede Home, Nebraska, February 13, 1906, and is buried in the Swede Home Cemetery. "Pete" Branting, as he was best known, arrived in Polk County, Nebraska, in 1888, according to his obituary, and located on a farm, near Stromsburg.

In 1890, Pete Branting married Anna Wallin. Anna was born in Sweden, in 1869. Her parents lived in Stromsburg, Nebraska, but little else is known of them. Pete and Anna's daughter, Florence, recalls visiting her Grandpa and Grandma Wallin, in Stromsburg, as a small girl, and playing with her Grandpa's full black beard, while sitting on his lap. Pete and Anna Branting had six children: Mabel (Mrs. LeRoy Church); Clifford; Florence (Mrs. Herman Church); Arthur; Clarence, and Ralph.

Anna Branting died of pneumonia, January 29, 1902, age 33 years, 7 months, 3 days; leaving six small children. Mabel, the oldest, assumed many of the family responsibilities. Pete's mother also helped, and darned socks for the children, recalls Florence, who remembers her Grandma Branting's spinning wheel. Pete later married a relative of his



Nels Peter Hugo Branting
1863-1917

first wife, named Jennie; who lived only a very short time after their marriage. Florence recalls that another relative, named Will Malmberg, who may have been Jennie's brother, sent money to Jennie, so that she could come to Nebraska. She spoke no English when she arrived, and stayed with the Pete Branting family. Pete and Jennie were later married. Florence said they had a child who was dead at birth. This child, Pete, Anna, Jennie (1877-1907), Clarence (1896-1920), and Maurice Branting (1920-1921), are buried in LaClede Cemetery, north of Polk, Nebraska. Will Malmberg, who seems to have been somewhat of a character, is said to have left for the goldfields, in about 1908, and was never heard from again.

Pete Branting purchased a place on Prairie Island, in Merrick County, Nebraska, in 1907; the Merrick County Clerk's research indicates, "W.D.-S. Clayton & wf to P. H. Branting dated February 27, 1907 — 278.60 acres." He later sold this place to his son-in-law, LeRoy Church, W.D. dated February 27, 1915. The property passed from, "Leroy Church and wife to Albert G. Lawson on August 4, 1939."

Pete Branting died, "near Polk", notes his obituary, August 18, 1917. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

PETER BRASE FAMILY

Peter Brase, born September 5, 1865 at Lake Creek, Missouri and Johannah Matuschke, born June 29, 1865 at New Mills, Missouri were married August 11, 1895 at Lake Creek, Missouri.

They came to Worms, Nebraska in the 1890s, where they built a general merchandise store, which they operated until 1928. Their living quarters were in the back of the store where four sons, Ted 1898, Bill 1899 and twins Martin and Otto 1901, were born. Otto lived for only two weeks.

Their fifth son Herbert, born in 1904, was born in a new two story house, built across the road from the store. Mr. Brase also served as Postmaster until the coming of Rural Delivery of mail.

The general store was a necessity in the rural areas, where farmers could sell their produce and buy their supplies. Mr. Brase drove a team and wagon to St. Libory to pick up supplies, where they were shipped via Union Pacific Railroad.

Mrs. Brase died December 27, 1948 and Mr. Brase died March 19, 1949. They are buried in the church cemetery at Worms. They were active members of Zion Lutheran Church during their residence in Merrick County. *Submitted by Mrs. Martin Brase*

ARTHUR BRAUCHER FAMILY

I lived in Archer, Nebraska with my father and mother, Arthur and Lena Braucher, and two older brothers, Ted and Francis, until I was seven. My grandfather, John Braucher, who migrated from Switzerland, lived with us a few years at this time as did my father's widowed sister, Grace Swartout, and baby Eugenia. My only sister Maxine was a baby when my father bought the Odell farm just west of Central City. He continued to farm the Archer property driving six head of horses the eight miles during planting and harvest season.

In 1927 my father died as a result of an auto mishap when he was returning from a Shriners' meeting in Grand Island. My mother continued farming for several years.

Both Ted and Francis joined the Marines. My mother then decided we should move to Central City as her mother, Mrs. George Cowgill, and brother, Pearl Cowgill, were there. Later another brother, Roy Cowgill, lived with his mother.

My mother died in 1936. I kept house for Ted and Francis who were then back working in Central City. Francis working for Al Nantkes. Maxine was in school. At that time I was working in a store for Al Hudgens.

The school year of 1937-38 I taught lower grades of District #8 School. Ruby Pressler taught upper grades. Maxine, Ruby and I boarded with Harry Kuskies' on the college section.

In 1938 I married a college classmate, Harland Skinner. We lived in Bradshaw, Nebraska for three years. Then we moved back to Central City where Harland was South Ward Principal. In 1942 we moved to New Hampshire. In 1977 we both retired, Harland from Postal Service, I from Insurance business.

Francis's daughter, Sylvia Erickson, is carrying on the family tradition in Central City.

I am the only surviving member of this generation. We spend our winters at 5 Piedra Negra Drive, Queen Valley, Apache Junction, Arizona 85220 and summers at Orford, New Hampshire 03777. *Submitted by Marjorie Braucher Skinner*

JOHN BRECKON FAMILY

John W. Breckon and Mary Hannah Hart were married September 27, 1866, in Jacksonville, Illinois. John had been born in Galesdale, England, February 17, 1835. He died October 10, 1913, at age seventy-eight. Mary was born in Yorkshire, England, April 19, 1846, and died August 28, 1939, in Central City, Nebraska, at age ninty-three. Children born to them were:



John Breckon Family

1. Ann Elizabeth — July 3, 1867, in Beloit, Kansas. Died September 23, 1893, age twenty-six. Married Revel Allen Wilson December 23, 1884, in Beloit. One child, Elizabeth Hanna born February 16, 1887 (raised by grandparents John and Mary Breckon). Elizabeth married Guy Coultas October 22, 1906. Two girls were born to them. Guy died August 12, 1910. Second marriage to William Heywood; two boys and four girls born to them. Elizabeth and William separated. Her third marriage was to Claude Willoughby on December 1, 1934. They had no children.

2. William Frank Breckon — born October 2, 1870, died November 26, 1929, at age fifty-nine. Married Mrs. Mary Lemp December 25, 1904, in Idaho. Mary had two sons. She died February, 1927.

3. Mary Inez Breckon — born December 21, 1872, died November 30, 1959 at age eighty-seven. Married Charles Coultas September 5, 1893. Charles was born September 5, 1870, and died November 1, 1930. Children born: four girls and one boy.

4. Minnie Bell Breckon never married. Born May 7, 1875, and died September 12, 1944, at age sixty-nine. Minnie worked for years in several stores in Central City and lived with her mother to take care of her.

5. Richard David Breckon — born April 10, 1880, died November 24, 1960, at age eighty. Married Eva Kate Plant on September 10, 1901 in La Grande, Oregon. Kate was born May 25, 1884, and died September 15, 1956, age seventy-two. They had four girls and two boys.

6. Robert Vickerman Breckon (twin to Richard) was born April 10, 1880, and died July 28, 1880, at



Peter Brase in Store — Mrs. Brase holding Ted

age three months.

7. Jessie Catherine Breckon — born March 27, 1885, in Beloit, Kansas. Died June 17, 1958, at Central City, Nebraska, age seventy-three. Married Joseph Ernest Hensley June 9, 1909, in Central City. Ernest was born August 20, 1882, in Kokomo, Indiana, and died February 16, 1968, in Republican City, Nebraska, age eighty-five. Children born to them: Murel L., Wendell B., Amy M., Russell V., Neal G., Paul R., Mary L., Richard V., and Gerald E.

8. Benjamin Harrison Breckon — born November 30, 1888, died December 28, 1970. Married Georgie Bell June 6, 1921, in Kearney, Nebraska. Georgia was born in 1890 and died July, 1977, at age eighty. They had four girls.

When John and Mary Breckon's first child was six months old, they moved from Jacksonville, Illinois, to Peru, Nebraska. After a few years there, they moved to Missouri for twelve years, then to Beloit, Kansas, and later to Central City, Nebraska, in 1887. John had a blacksmith shop where Neil's Service Center is located today. He was a Civil War Veteran from 1861-1865 in Co. K, 2nd Light Artillery. John died at 403 E. Avenue, Central City, in 1913, and Grandmother at the same address. This was the home of Minnie for years, and also of our parents, Ernest and Jessie Hensley. *Submitted by Neal G. Hensley*



James and Ella Bremer Family — 1976

JAMES & ELLA BREMER

James August, son of John and Elsie Vogler Bremer, was born August 17, 1908, in Mira Valley, south of Ord, Nebraska. He was the oldest of seven children. His paternal grandparents, John and Bertha Prien Bremer, were immigrants from Germany in 1857, first living in Davenport, Iowa. In 1889, they, with their family, homesteaded on a farm on Mira Creek where they were assured of water. James' grandpa fought with the North in the Civil War under General Grant.

Ella Pauline, daughter of William and Minnie Lade Holtz, was born May 29, 1916, one of a family of seven sisters. Her parents homesteaded in Cherry County west of Valentine and moved to the Holtz farm in 1914. Her paternal grandparents, Henry and Mary Fulriede Holtz, moved here with their family in 1893 from Pleasant Ridge, southeast of St. Louis. Following Ella's graduation from high school, she taught for three years in rural schools. One of her earliest recollections of travel is in the family's 1916 eight-passenger touring Studebaker. There were two seats that could fold flush with the floor between the front and rear seats. If caught in a rainstorm, the side curtains stored under the rear seat were hurriedly unfolded and snapped in place.

James and Ella were married June 14, 1936, and lived south of North Loup, Nebraska. There Elaine Joyce, William Gerald, Melvin James, and Kathleen Louise were born. In February 1944, the family moved to a farm two miles east of Worms in western Merrick County. Daughter Connyce Faye was born. The family made their living farming, raising sheep, laying hens, and feeding cattle. The children attended parochial school in Worms, then attended high school and college. All are married and Jim and Ella have twelve grandchildren.

When James was six years old, his father bought his first automobile, a 1914 Ford Touring Car. It had Prestone Gas Headlights, and taillights that burned coal oil, and had to be lit with a match. The gas tank was under the front seat.

The first threshing machine that James pitched bundles into was a 36M Case, powered by a Reeves twin-cylinder steam engine. It took a crew of eight men with bundle racks and two men with grain wagons. The threshing season in the community lasted four to six weeks.

In the late 1920's, James helped cut ice in January and February by hand with an ice saw on Mira Creek. The ice cakes were cut 18x36" and were stacked twenty to a load. In the winter of 1929, the ice cutting crew of four men cut and loaded ice to fill eighty ice houses in the community. Farmers would haul and unload the ice into their ice houses holding an average of six to eight loads. In the summer men used ice tongs to carry a cake of ice to their wooden refrigerators, now antiques. This was before electricity in the rural areas. In the 1930's it was "tough sleddin' " — dry season's plus depression. In 1934 their corn crop didn't tassle and was finished by the Fourth of July. Cows were sold for $18.00 per head and ewes for $2.00 per head.

Until the 1940's, most corn was husked by hand, although some was snapped from the stalk with husks for feeding to cattle and hogs. In the 1930's corn husking contests were popular and in 1930 Jim entered the Valley County Corn Husking Contest and received second prize for a twenty-four bushel load after all deductions were made. It was an eighty minute time limit, picked in forty bushel per acre dry land corn. In 1945, he bought a Co-op single-row picker with which six to eight acres per day could be harvested.

Jim and Ella and their son Melvin built their new home in 1973, on the place where they still live. Although they retired in 1975, they are active in Zion Lutheran Church at Worms. James has served as elder and also as congregation treasurer. He served eight years on the Mission Board of the Southern Nebraska District, Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. James served as Merrick County Supervisor for Prairie Creek Township in 1963-1971. Ella is a member of Dorcas Ladies' Aid since 1944. She has also served on both the zone and district boards of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. She helps on the quilting committee, and enjoys raising a big garden, reading, and sewing. The couple likes to travel and visit with their friends and family. Ella is a charter member of Cheerie Center Club. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. James Bremer*

MELVIN & PAT BREMER

Melvin James Bremer, second son of James and Ella Holtz Bremer, was born July 6, 1940, on a farm south of North Loup, Nebraska. He came to Merrick County to a farm two miles east of Worms in February 1944, with his parents, two sisters and a brother. He attended grades one through eight in Zion Lutheran Christian Day School in Worms, grades nine and ten in Palmer and graduated from Concordia High School in Seward. He attended Concordia Teachers College three years and graduated from University of Nebraska Lincoln with a major in art and design.

Melvin taught in Junior High in Springfield, Massachusetts, and later moved to Colorado where he was both a designer and builder. He is presently an architectural designer at Woodland Park, Colorado.

In 1971, he married Patricia Irene Bouille, who was born July 9, 1945, in Elmira, New York. They enjoy travelling and the beautiful scenery in the Rockies as well as skiing.

Mel designed and built his parent's home in Merrick County in 1973 with the help of his father, his wife, his brother, and friends.



Mel and Pat Bremer

Memories of early life are farm pets, especially "Sparky" and "Amigo", school picnics, Christmas programs and family dinners and get-togethers, summer vacations with cousins and grandparents, herding and feeding sheep, lambs frolicking, irrigating and harvesting corn, playing football in high school and college, ripe watermelons, roller skating parties, ice skating in the winter and ice hockey on Quandt's pond, county fairs, being a member of 4-H Club, and exhibiting fat Angus steers and Suffolk lambs. Mel also worked in Clearwater National Forest in Orofina, Idaho,. watching for blister rust and fires in the summers of 1958 and 1959. *Submitted by Mrs. James Bremer*

WILLIAM & JUDY BREMER

William Gerald (Bill) Bremer was born January 17, 1939, on a farm near North Loup, Nebraska. He is the oldest son of James and Ella Holtz Bremer. Maternal grandparents are William and Minnie Lade Holtz. Paternal grandparents are John and Elsie Bogeler Bremer. He was baptized in St. John's Lutheran church in Mira Valley and confirmed in 1953 at Zion Lutheran in Worms. Bill attended grade school in Worms, grades 9-11 in Palmer, and graduated from Grand Island Senior High in 1957.

Both Bill and his brother Mel were early members of a Merrick County 4-H Club, exhibiting Angus and Charolais steers and Suffolk and Hampshire lambs.

Boyhood memories include: fishing and spearing carp in the Platte when it was low; in the summer, vacations at his grandparents and other family; herding sheep, with a pet horse and dog; riding in Uncle Frank's antique "Reo" 1911 model touring



Bill and Judy Bremer, Tara and Troy — 1981

car; irrigating and harvesting corn; several cousins trying to smoke a cigar at Aunt Bernadine's chivaree when Bill was less than ten years old; working in Clearwater National Forest for two summers; stacking hay; ice skating in the winter; and roller skating parties.

Bill went to Kansas State College two years, then enlisted in the Air Force; training first at Lackland AFB, then at Chanute AFB and at Whiteman AFB as a flight simulator technician. He served in Guam from October 1962 to March 1964. In the fall of 1962, typhoon Karen completely devastated the island, except for the concrete barracks which were typhoon-secure. Memories include living on "C" rations for several days.

Upon returning to Grand Island he worked for the phone company.

On August 29, 1965, Bill married Judy Mae Meves. Judy, daughter of Irvin Paul and Ruby May Meves of Grand Island, was born May 5, 1942.

Bill finished college via night school at UNO. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in General Education. He is a salesman in the field of printing and advertising. Bill and Judy have lived in several central United States cities, and now live in Grand Island.

The couple have two children. Troy Matthew was born June 17, 1967, and Tara Lynn was born September 23, 1969. They are active Christian workers in counseling and evangelism, and enjoy the fellowship of family and friends. Bill loves to read and so do the children. Judy's hobbies are sewing and crafts. Troy and Tara also enjoy crafts. Troy is a member of their youth fellowship at church and Tara sings in the children's choir. The entire family loves to go fishing.

Submitted by Mrs. James Bremer

WENDELL & KATHY ULDRICH

Kathleen Louise Bremer Uldrich was born December 31, 1941, the fourth child of James and Ella Bremer of Worms, Nebraska. She attended Zion Lutheran School and graduated from Grand Island Senior High in 1959, and from Lincoln General Hospital School of Nursing in 1962. She and Wendell met while attending the University of Nebraska and were married November 26, 1964. They have three sons: Brett 15, Matt 13, and Mike 10. Wendell works for IBM and the family lived in Des Moines, Iowa, twelve years, Minneapolis for three years, and now reside in Dallas. Kathy has worked as a staff nurse, office nurse and an instructor of nursing courses.

Kathy has many fond memories of her growing up years in Merrick County. One of the highlights was the frequent family get-togethers with cousins, aunts, and uncles. If it was during the summer, they could always count on homemade ice cream with Kathy's father and uncles taking turns cranking the ice cream maker. They always had a big garden. Although the kids did their share of grumbling about getting up early to pull weeds, hoe and irrigate, they did enjoy the harvest — pick a few, eat a few, etc. For a few years Jim rented land several miles east of the farm. Not only was the soil good for raising corn and milo, it was great for growing melons. The kids helped with moving the sprinkler pipes, which was the method of irrigating the crops. It was such a treat to wander through the melon patch and carefully choose, by the thumping method, a ripe melon, sit down in the shade of the cornfield, and eat a piece of melon. "One may think my shape is 5x5 from all this food talk, but I have to mention that I have never tasted sweet corn as good as is grown right here in Merrick County!"

Kathy was active in 4-H, so the Merrick County Fair and State Fair were highlights. Sewing and baking projects were proudly displayed. Sewing is still one of Kathy's hobbies along with reading, crafts, tennis, bridge and skiing.

During High School Kathy was active in Walther League, Pep Club, Chorus, and played the clarinet in Pep Band and Concert Band. They played at all home basketball and football games and marched in the Harvest of Harmony and Lincoln Band Day Parades.



Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Uldrich Family — 1979

Some other flashbacks include going barefoot all summer, wading in the Platte River and Prairie Creek, rabbit hunting with her brothers in the old Ford pickup in the dark, riding for hours on the old four-row corn planter with her sister, taking lunch to the hay crew in the field, coming home from school to the aroma of home baked bread, scorching her "tush" while bathing by the oil burning stove in the dining room, Christmas Eve programs in a brand new dress sewn by her mother, herding sheep, milking cows, gathering and cleaning eggs, vacations at grandparents and cousins' homes, watching the sheep shearer, feeding orphan lambs, raising dozens of hamsters, their pet pig Genevieve, the horse Amigo, Roller-skating at Aurora, square dances, butchering chickens, the annual school picnics, softball games, jumping in the corn bins, and jumping off hay stacks just to mention a few.

It is always a pleasure for Kathy and her family to drive back to Nebraska for a visit . . . they truly enjoy the marvelous Heartland of the Midwest. *Submitted by Kathy Bremer Uldrich*

DR. A. D. & FANNIE BROWN

Dr. A. D. Brown was born at Atlantic, Iowa, May 27, 1886, the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Brown.

He attended Iowa University, Rush Medical College, Chicago, and received his B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska Medical college in 1912.

He was married in Omaha, Nebraska, September 28, 1912, to Fannie Hoffhine,. the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Hoffhine of Columbus, Ohio. The couple came to Central City in January, 1913.

Active in the practice of medicine in Central City for more than forty-four years, Dr. Brown was well known throughout the state in medical circles. He was a member of the A.M.A., Nebraska State Medical Society, and the Tri-County Medical Association.

He established his practice in Central City in January, 1913, taking an active . part in civic and community affairs. With a deep interest in the people he served, he could count many friendships in more than one generation.

A Mason in his early life, he was the youngest Knight Templar when initiated in Iowa. He became a Shriner in Tehama Temple, Hastings, in those early days.

He passed away at Hord Memorial Hospital Wednesday, July 30, 1958.

Fannie was born July 9, 1890, in Frankfort, Ohio, to John and Gertrude Ann McNeill Hoffhine.

The family lived near Frankfort and Mrs. Brown attended college in Columbus, Ohio.

She was a member of Eastern Star, Daughter of the Nile, and the Presbyterian Church.

Fannie passed away June 15, 1975, at the St. Francis Hospital in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Dr. and Fannie had one daughter, Bette, who lives in Hastings, Nebraska, with her husband, Oliver Smith. *Submitted by Bette Smith*

CHARLES BROWN HISTORY

My grandfather, Charles R. Brown was born in Pecatonica, Illinois, to Matilda Wilkelmena Peterson and William Brown. Matilda came to America from Sweden. William Brown was born May 22, 1831 in London, England. He was seventeen years old when he came to Pecatonica, Illinois to make his new home.

There were six sons who grew to maturity. My grandfather, Charles Brown was the eldest of these sons. Of the six sons, Charles, Fred, and Alfred came to Clarks. Fred and Charles arrived in the 1880's and built several buildings on the east side of main street. These later housed businesses.

Fred and Charles operated a meat market in Clarks. Later, Fred farmed northeast of Clarks and Charles continued in the business.

On first arriving in Clarks, Charles made his home at one of the two local hotels.

Later Charles married a local school teacher, Laura Gilbert, in the year 1896.

He was a long time member of the Masonic Lodge in Pecotonica, Illinois and a member of the Scottish Rite in Omaha.

He fed and shipped cattle to Omaha. This business went hand in hand with his meat market business as this was in the days of no refrigeration. Meat was cut and sold fresh. The only ice was taken from the Platte River and stored in ice houses.

Charles and Laura Brown had one daughter, Florence. They educated her in the Clarks Public Schools, Nebraska Central Academy and sent her back to Rockford Girls College near the original home of her father in Illinois.

Florence married the late Harold Snider who come to Clarks from Iowa in 1902.

Florence and Harold later continued the meat market business and added a locker system in the same location until the year 1963 when they moved to Central City.

Charles and/or his family had the pleasure of operating the meat market business in the town of Clarks for a period of over 80 years. *Submitted by Phoebe McCullough*

FRED BROWN

Fred Brown came to Clarks, Nebraska, in the latter part of the 1880's; originally from Pecatonica, Illinois. He had brothers: Charles, Alfred, Joe, John and William. Joe and William remained in Illinois. Fred was joined, at Clarks, by his brother, Charles, who had left a growing meat market; they built several buildings on the east side of town, which were rented to several businesses. The brothers left Clarks, about 1900; expecting to locate in Wyoming. However, a fire broke out in the Clarks buildings; which were destroyed despite the fire-fighting efforts of people carrying water by bucket. The brothers returned and rebuilt; later their brother, Alfred, came. He operated the light system — that too burned and was later replaced by electricity. Charlie stayed in the meat market; Fred left the business to farm.

Fred Brown married Maud McLean (further reference with the Hartwell family); Charles Brown married Laura Gilbert; Alfred Brown married Sophia Morgan. Surviving membersof the Brown family are: Isabel and Betty Brown, of Clarks, Nebraska; Mrs. Florence Snider, of Central City, Nebraska; and Jule Brown and Mildred Rich, of California. *Submitted by Betty and Isabel Brown, and Thomas E. Kelly.*

LARRY & PHYLLIS BROWN

Larry Duane Brown was born to Richard and Lavonne Webb Brown March 11, 1942, in Hugoton, Kansas. Larry has a sister Cheryl (Mrs. Ron Johnson) living on a farm near Hordville and a brother Richard living on a farm near Central City. Larry attended the elementary schools in Kansas until they moved to Fairbury, Nebraska in 1954. They were there only four years and then moved to Central City, Nebraska in 1958. Central City is where he met Phyllis Jensen. After attending the University of Nebraska 1½ years he came home to marry Phyllis and begin farming.

Phyllis was born to Erven and Irene Johnson Jensen, June 9, 1943, in Central City, and has lived her life in and around Central City area. She has a sister LaVonne (Mrs. Rodney Mason) who lives in Sacramento, California and also a sister Lois (Mrs. Jerry Johnson) who lives on an acreage near Gothenburg, Nebraska.



Larry Brown Family — 1980

After marriage in March 1962, they moved and began farming eleven and one half miles west of Central City near Worms. There they started their family of three boys, Kevin Duane, Brian Eugene, and Darrin Leslie. Kevin was born in Central City in March 1963, and graduated from Central City high school in 1981. Brian was born also in Central City in June 1964, and is a junior at Central City High. Darrin was born at the Aurora hospital in March 1970 and is a fifth grader.

In 1972 Dick, Larry's brother began farming with Larry. In 1975, we moved off our first farm and purchased Larry's parents home place six miles west of Central City. Larry and his brother are engaged in farming and raise corn, popcorn and feed out some hogs.

We are all active members of the Archer Zion United Methodist Church near Archer. It is a busy life. Church and school activities are attended as a family.

Larry enjoys playing tennis and is also a 4-H leader. He spends his spare time working and creating in his shop. Phyllis also enjoys playing tennis. She spends her free time with crafts or crocheting. They enjoy activities with the family and also love gatherings with neighbors and friends. *Submitted by Phyllis Brown*

LeMOYNE C. BROWN FAMILY

Donna Lee Raser (Brown) was born and raised in Chapman, Nebraska, daughter of Jesse and Gladys Raser. On June 6, 1948, I, Donna, married LeMoyne C. Brown, son of Art and Grace Brown, grandson of Eugene and Myrtle Clement. LeMoyne worked at the Farmers store in Chapman. In 1949, we moved to Grand Island, where LeMoyne worked for Cook Paint and Varnish. We were transfered to Hastings, Nebraska with Cooks. In 1950 we moved to Denver, Colorado, with Jesse and Gladys Raser, and opened a resturant. LeMoyne worked for Gump Glass Company for one year, then went to work in the mobile home business in 1951. He was with Western Mobile Homes for twenty years. LeMoyne and Donna opened their own mobile home retail lot which they ran for four years. LeMoyne is now the Executive Director of the Colorado Manufactured Housing Assoc. We have two sons, William Dean, born Nov. 13, 1951, graduated from University of Northern Colorado and now is teaching school at Platte Valley High School in Bailey, Colorado. He and his wife, Connie, have a son Michael. Douglas Lee, born Dec. 11, 1953, graduated from University of Southern Colorado and now is selling auto parts in Arvada, Colorado. Doug is single and living in Denver. Bill and Connie built a new home near Bailey, Colorado, 40 miles southwest of Denver near where Bill teaches school. Connie commutes to Denver and works at Swedish Hospital as a registered nurse. For recreation, the entire family has enjoyed our boat and summer home at Horsetooth Reservoir, where we all water-ski and relax. The men in the family also enjoy snow-skiing in the winter. *Submitted by Donna Lee Raser Brown*



LeMoyne and Donna Brown

RICHARD & LaVONNE BROWN

When we left Kansas, our friends and relatives said we would return in a few years. Although we visit there often, we have lived in Merrick County since 1958.

Richard was born in Niles, Ohio 23 October 1917, the oldest child of Frank and Margaret Brown. A year later they moved to a farm in Stevens County, Kansas. Richard was a sophomore at Kansas State University when his father died of dust pneumonia on St. Valentines Day, 1937. He went home to make the living for his mother and ten year old brother.

My parents, Stell and Verla Webb lived in that same farming community. I was born 14 December 1922, the third in a family of four children.

Richard and I were married in June 1941, soon after I graduated from High school. By this time his mother and brother had moved into town. We lived on his grandfather's farm, and eventually were able to buy it.

We were affiliated with several organizations including the Methodist Church, Grange and Flying Farmers.

Our three children were born while we lived in Kansas. Larry was born 11 March 1942. Cheryl was born 8 May 1945 and Richard (Dick) was born 11 March 1951, on Larry's ninth birthday.

Dust storms in the spring of 1954 reminded us of our "teen" years in the "dirty thirties", so we sold the farm and moved to Jefferson County, Nebraska.

We sold that farm in 1958 and came to Central City. We farmed for the late Roy Betts for a year while we were looking around for a place to buy. We purchased a quarter of land west of Central City on Ormsby Road, built a house, and moved into it in 1959.

Our children attended the local schools and graduated from Central City High School. Larry attended Agricultural College at the University of Nebraska, then started farming with his dad. He married Phyllis Jensen of Central City and they have three sons: Kevin, Brian, and Darrin. They now live six miles west of Central City.

Cheryl attended a beauty school in Lincoln and was a beauty operator for a time following her marrige to Ronald Johnson of Hordville. They have two sons: Jeffry and Jason. They farm near Hordville.

Dick attended teacher's college at the University of Nebraska for three years, then decided to join his father and brother in farming. He is married to Susan Quinn of Ralston, and they have two children, Jennifer and Keith. They live one half mile south of the Paddock Corner.

Richard and I moved from the farm to Central City in 1975. We are now retired, and are no longer involved with the farming operations (except during busy seasons when a little help is appreciated). Our sons and their families now have their own farming partnership.

Our social life consists mainly of church related activities. We enjoy R.V. traveling, and we are amateur rockhounds. *Submitted by Richard and LaVonne Brown*

MILTON BRUNKEN FAMILY

Milton and I, Louise (Lohr) Brunken, came to the Clarks area from Colfax County in March of 1956, because of employment.

We have eight children. Carl lives in Columbus and works at D&L. Louis and his wife, Suzanne (McDonald) Brunken live in Clarks; Louis drives semi for Don Briggers. Fern (Mrs. Peter) Boldt and her family of four sons live in St. Catherines, Ontario. Her sons are Tim, Tom, Terry & Teddy. Peter has the Boldt Pools. Richard and two sons, Rick and Wayne, also live in St. Catherines, Ontario. He is employed by Boldt Pools. Irene (Mrs. Robert) Johnston and four children, Kimberly, Kevin, Kristal and Karlene live on a farm near Platte Center, Nebraska. Bob farms. Marrianne lives and works in Columbus. Karen teaches math at Howells High School in Howells, Nebraska. Sharen (Mrs. Bruce) Lusby spent a year in the Navy. Her husband, Bruce, is in the Navy stationed at San Diego, California.

Milton's two grandfathers, Diedrich Brunken and Friedrich Brunken, came to America, from Oldenburg, Germany. Diedrich came to America in 1870 and worked his way westward. He came to Platte County, Nebraska in 1872. He became a citizen of the United States in April, 1877. He



Milton Brunken Family

homesteaded eighty acres, located nine and a half miles north of Columbus on the Monastary Road. In his first marriage, to Sophe Milian, six children were born to them. His second marriage to Theasa Wise had two children.

John Brunken, Milton's father, was the oldest son of Diedrich. He married Marie Brunken and they farmed just across the road from the homeplace. Ten children were born to them. Milton's mother passed away when he was ten years old.

Milton's grandfather, Friedrich Brunken, was born in Oldenburg, Germany. He and his family of three children arrived in the United States in 1891. They settled in the Monroe area, where he farmed. Milton's mother was ten years old when they came to America.

My great, great-grandfather, George Lohr, and Barbara (Bauman) Lohr came to America from Germany in 1740 and settled in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Later, the families moved to Nebraska. Most of them located at Columbus. My grandfather, William Lohr, was a conductor for the UP Railroad. My father, Louis Lohr, was born in Columbus. As a boy, he spent several summers with his uncle Will Heinemeyer near Clarks. He attended District No 7 east of Clarks, and graduated from the eighth grade there.

My great-grandfather, Charles Heinemeyer, also came from Hanover, Germany, in the early 1800's and fought in the Civil War. They settled in Somerset County, Pennsylvania and later came to Nebraska, homesteading in Polk County, south of Havens. My great-grandfather, Charles Hoevet, was born in Mecklenburg, Schwerin, Germany. His family can be traced back to the year 1139. He was the youngest of nine children. He was in the mercantile business. He emigrated to this country, arriving in 1852. He chose farming, spending a few years in Indiana and Illinois, settling finally in Clay County, Nebraska in 1880. My grandfather, Charles Hoevet Jr., was born in Clay County, Nebraska. He was a wellmaker by trade. My mother, Elizabeth (Hoevet) Lohr was born at Beaman, Iowa. They came to Nebraska when she was four years old. *By Mrs. Milton Brunken*

ALBERT & ANNA BRUNS

Albert John Ernest Bruns, son of William and Johanna Seim Bruns, was born September 18, 1903, on the family farm nine and a quarter miles west of Central City along Prairie Creek on the Ormsby Road.

In 1915, William moved his family to Palmer so that the children could attend the Lutheran School there. The family continued to farm along Prairie Creek at the same time.

Albert helped his father farm. He also learned to de-horn cattle, a useful trade that helped augment the family income. Albert built a set of farm buildings for himself one quarter mile west of his parent's place just prior to his marriage.

Anna Helen Kaiser, one of thirteen children born to Carl J. and Ida Erdman Kaiser, was born August 2, 1905, at home in Hall County. She attended school in Hall County.

Albert and Anna were married October 17, 1926, at Zion Lutheran in Worms. They had three children: Ruth (Friedrickson), Vernon, and Robert.



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bruns

Albert and Anna lived on their farm until their retirement in 1970, at which time they moved into Central City. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at home in Central City in 1976. Their son Vernon and his family now live on the home place. *Submitted by Mrs. Delores Thomsen Bruns*

GERHARD & EVELYN BRUNS

Gerhard Edward Bruns, son of William Herman Bruns and Johanna Emilia (Seim) Bruns, was born September 16, 1912 at the farm home north of Chapman, Nebraska. Gerhard, mostly called "Gerhardt" or "Garrett", was a namesake of Gerhard Harms, a half-brother of William Bruns. Gerhard Harms and William Bruns had the same mother. Gerhard Bruns cannot remember ever seeing his uncle, Gerhard Harms, who lived at Mountain Home, Arkansas and died in Wyoming. Gerhard Bruns has lived all of his life to date in Merrick County and has been a successful cattle feeder and farmer.

There were nine children in Gerhard's family. A brother, William, Jr., died in infancy. Other brothers and sisters are: Albert Bruns, Helen Bruns Bader, Elsie Bruns Weller, Ella Bruns Hursh, Gerhard Bruns, Hulda Bruns Suck, Edward Armin Bruns, and Harvey Bruns.

Evelyn Mae Scharvin, daughter of Martin Scharvin and Carrie Belle (McKnight) Scharvin, was born July 12, 1916 in Valley, Nebraska. Evelyn moved to Merrick County with her parents, one sister and one brother in 1926. Evelyn was a public school teacher prior to her marriage. She also enjoyed bookkeeping and worked at the Archer Co-operative Credit Association for five years. Evelyn had open heart surgery on January 8, 1974 and now has an artifical aortic valve, which works quite well.

Evelyn Scharvin Bruns has one sister older than she, Mrs. Ervin Blauhorn (Bonnie Marguerite), and one brother younger, Frank Martin Scharvin.

Gerhard Edward Bruns and Evelyn Mae Scharvin were married in Archer on June 12, 1940. Their first home was established on the Henry Retzlaff farm southwest of Archer. In 1943 they purchased the farm west of Archer, where they continue to reside.

Gerhard and Evelyn Bruns accepted the struggles of the 1930's and early '40's as part of life. The depression of the 1930's was a much more difficult time for young people and their parents than the inflation of the 1980's. Scarcity of jobs, low wages, severe drouth with no irrigation, and low farm prices caused people to lack many of the real necessities of life, but most had enough food. In the 1930's many young couples got married and kept it a secret until they could in some way establish a home. This ended as times improved.

Every farmer had a few milk cows, some chickens, and a few hogs to help the food supply and get a little cash. Gradually electricity and tractor-power came.

Through the years, Gerhard found farming methods and machinery in constant improvement, but feels that the coming of electricity and irrigation wells of great number and communications through television, really bettered rural living. Gerhard's first irrigation well was made in 1955. Others were added later. Gerhard enjoyed working with livestock and found more years of profit than of loss as he worked with beef cattle.

Gerhard and Evelyn Bruns enjoy working in Archer Zion United Methodist Church and like rural living.

As I wrote this, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States, was shot in the left lung by an assassin. Three other men were also seriously injured. Six shots were fired. These are troubled times. Our prayers and thoughts are with the injured men. (Eveyln Bruns died September 1981) *Evelyn Bruns*

VERNON & DELORES BRUNS

Vernon Albert Bruns, son of Albert and Anna Kaiser Bruns, was born on the farm west of Central City on December 20, 1931. He attended rural school at District 44 and Zion Lutheran School at Worms. He was confirmed in 1946.



Vernon Bruns Family — 1981
L-r — Vernon, Mark, John, Delores, Jim, Mary Ann.

Vernon farmed with his father and other farms in the area until drafted into the Army in 1953 during the Korean War. Serving in the Military Police, he was stationed in Tokyo, Japan, for twenty-two months. He returned to farming following his discharge.

Ted Farmer, a Central City veterinarian, took several young men including Vernon to a church youth group activity in Grand Island. Here Vernon met Delores Joyce Thomsen, daughter of Neils Christian and Gladys Evelyn Jacobsen Thomsen. Her family was pure Danish in background; Neils had been born in Denmark.

Delores and Vernon were married March 24, 1957. A terrible snowstorm made it difficult for guests to attend the ceremony.

Vernon and Delores made their first home on the Herman Kuck Farm. Moving in 1958 to the Otto Wagner Farm, eight and one half miles west of Central City on the Ormsby Road, they farmed there thirteen years. At that time they moved back to Vernon's father's home place.

Delores was confirmed at Zion in Worms on November 3, 1957. All family members are active at Zion. Vernon was Sunday School Superintendent in Worms for six years and Treasurer of the congregation for six years. Both Delores and Vernon teach Sunday School. Vernon served his township, Prairie Creek, as Treasurer for sixteen years, is a member of Chapman Co —op Board of Directors, and is President of Chapman Fire Board. Delores has been a member of Cheerie Center Club since 1957, is a member of Dorcas Ladies' Aid at Zion, and leads devotions at Litzenberg Hospital Extended Care Unit in Central City the first Tuesday of each month.

Vernon and Delores have four children. John, born February 22, 1959, will graduate from the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture in May 1981 with a degree in Ag Economics. He plans to be a farm loan officer in a bank or farm credit office. Jim, born December 27, 1960, attends Hastings Tech and is learning diesel mechanics and welding. Mark, born March 24, 1965, attends Central City High School. Mary Ann, born January 26, 1975, attends Zion Lutheran School in Worms. *Submitted by Delores Thomsen Bruns*

WILLIAM & JOHANNA BRUNS

William Herman Bruns, youngest son of Ahlert Bruns and Margarete (Koenig) Bruns, was born January 28, 1875 at Okawville, Washington County, Illinois, and departed this life May 20, 1936 at the age of sixty-one years. At the age of eight years he came with his parents to Nebraska and located on the farm north of Chapman, which was always his home. William Bruns, called "Will", suffered a stroke in the fall of 1935. His health continued to fail. On May 19, 1936 he became ill with pneumonia and died the following day due to heart attack, the doctor said.

William Bruns had one sister, Mrs. August Kamper (Anna), one brother, Henry Bruns, and a half-brother, Gerhard Harms.

Johanna Emilia Bruns, oldest daughter of John and Selma Seim, was born in Merrick County, Nebraska near Chapman on June 23, 1880. She passed away on August 17, 1955 at the age of

seventy-five years. Johanna Bruns, called "Anna", had been in failing health for several years and suffered a critical illness in April 1955. She had problems with high blood pressure and probably died from a stroke.

The ten children in the Seim family in order of age are: Johanna Seim Bruns, Marie Seim Jess, Elsie Seim Rauert, John Seim, Edward Seim, Clara Seim Bader, Frank Seim, Amanda Seim Tegler, Carl Seim, and Hilda Seim Tagge.

Johanna Emilia Seim and William Herman Bruns were united in marriage on October 4, 1900. To this union nine children were born. One son, William, Jr., died in infancy. Other children in order of their age are: Albert Bruns, Helen Bruns Bader, Elsie Bruns Weller, Ella Bruns Hursh, Gerhard Bruns, Hulda Bruns Suck, Edward Armin Bruns, and Harvey Bruns.

Johanna and William Bruns lived in a sod house on their farm for a few years until a frame-house was built. *Submitted by Gerhard Bruns*

BUCKLEY — FOSBURY

Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Buckley, my grandparents, came to Merrick County in the fall of 1881 from Chester, Pennsylvania, bringing with them their three youngest children: Martha and Mary, the twins, and Wesley, the baby. Mary was my mother. Their two older boys stayed in Chester with relatives until their parents could become established in their new home and know what accommodations were available to them. Rev. Buckley was assigned to the Methodist Church in Clarks. He also held services in the Scudder school house, north of town, and at Silver Creek, making the journeys on horseback or by horse and buggy. He served the Clarks community for three years, the time limit in those days, before moving on to other charges in central Nebraska. When the family came to Clarks, Martha and Mary were two and a half years old, and Wesley, their brother, was ten months. They came by train, a long slow journey.



Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Fosbury

While they lived in Clarks, the Pawnee Indians often came to the door begging food. This frightened my grandmother at first, but she soon found out they were friendly but hungry. In those days the parsonage was built on the back of the church, and one Sunday morning, Martha, clad in nighty and barefooted, escaped her mother's watchful eye and made her way into the church where services were being held, seating herself on the front pew. One of the neighbor ladies, Mrs. Amanda Morse, escorted her back home. Before the family left Clarks, the girls were old enough to begin school, which was the building later known as the opera house in the days when I was growing up in Clarks. My mother said her memories of that school were not very pleasant as the schoolmaster was cross. One day he threw a book at one of the big boys, which terrified the small children.

After serving several towns in central Nebraska, Rev. and Mrs. Buckley retired in 1901 in Callaway, Nebraska, where they had served their last assignment. They are both buried in the Callaway cemetery.

My mother, Mary Buckley, returned to Clarks as a bride in November, 1909. She and my dad, W. J. Fosbury, were married in Denver soon after his return from three years of teaching in the Philippines, a U.S. government assignment. Dad bought Mr. Adams' furniture and undertaking business, and so Clarks became their home for the many years they had together. They celebrated their fifty-sixth wedding anniversary October 24, 1965.

Both were active in civic affairs and in the church. Dad was on the school board, was clerk of the village board for many years, and served as the secretary of the local Modern Woodman Lodge for fifty years. He was Sunday School superintendent, as well as teacher of a Bible class. My mother was a member of the Research Club, the Methodist Women's Society, and was recorder of the Royal Neighbors Lodge for many years. In her younger days she was church pianist, a member of the choir, and Sunday School teacher.

Dad kept his business till failing health forced him to give it up. In his later years he enjoyed working in his large garden, producing vegetables and fruits which he shared with neighbors and friends.

My parents raised two children — Evelyn, a teacher in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Walter who is associated with Prudential Insurance Company in Houston, Texas. Walter and his wife Anne have two children, Lynne and Jay, and five grandchildren. Dad died in January, 1966, and my mother in March, 1968. They are both buried in the Clarks Cemetery. *Submitted by their daughter, Evelyn Fosbury*

DORA BUCKOW FAMILY

Dora Niemoth Buckow was born on October 8, 1897, the oldest daughter of Frank T. and Alida Ahrens Niemoth, on the farm in western Merrick County.

She was married to Albert Buckow, son of William and Addie Winter Buckow, on January 22, 1918. They lived on a farm north of Grand Island. Dora Niemoth Buckow passed away March 27, 1926, and her husband passed away in 1955. They are buried in the Wiegert Cemetery. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl Karen Niedfelt*



Dora Niemoth and Albert Buckow

GREGORY BURGER FAMILY

Gregory Kent Burger was born to Jack and Dorothy Burger on October 28, 1947 at the St. Anthony Hospital in Denver, Colorado. Jack was working for the Veterans Administration and attending the University of Denver. After receiving his degree in Business Education, the family moved to Clarks, Nebraska where he taught in the Clarks high school system.

In the spring of 1955 a move was made from town to the Burger farm, where Greg attended Pleasant Hill school, until he was in the eighth grade. It was at this time Greg started attending Silver Creek School where his father was employed. Greg then graduated from the Silver Creek Schools in May 1966. From Silver Creek Schools he attended Kearney State College where he graduated in June 1970.



Gregory Burger Family — 1980
Kaci, Niki, Adam, Luke

He married Annette Powers in Silver Creek on August 30, 1969. Annette was also a Silver Creek girl and was the daughter of Elmer and Therma Powers of Silver Creek.

Annette also received her degree from Kearney State then both taught in North Platte Schools. Greg later completed his Masters degree from Oklahoma University. The family moved to York, Nebraska in 1975 where Greg taught for two years before entering the Insurance Managment area with the North Central Crop Hail Service in Eau Claire, Wisconsin where they presently live.

Greg and Annette have four children: Kaci Joe born, on April 9, 1974, Luke Allen born December 31, 1975, Niki Sue born November 5, 1977 and Adam Kent born on July 6, 1980. *Submitted by Jack Burger*

JACK BURGER FAMILY

Jack was born to William and Josie Burger on September 6, 1918. He was also fortunate to have a twin sister, Doris, who now lives in Salem, Oregon. They enjoyed growing up on a farm near Clarks, Nebraska. They enjoyed going to Pleasant Hill School and later to high school in Clarks. It was during their high school years that their father very suddenly passed away. He, then, helped his mother and sisters with the farm work until after graduation for Clarks High School. He then worked one year at which time he enrolled at Nebraska Central at Central City. It was during his second year at Nebraska Central that he meet his wife, Dorothy Wyman, who also was a student at the college. They were married on June 29, 1941 at the Methodist Church in Silver Creek, Nebraska. Jack then taught the seventh and eighth grades at Clarks Public Schools for 1½ years at which time he was called to the service of his country in December of 1942. He was in the Air Force from January 1943 thru January 1946. After discharge from service, a decision was made to live in Denver where Jack worked and went to school. Dorothy, also worked full time until their son, Gregory Kent, was born on October 28, 1947. In September 1950 we moved back to Clarks, Nebraska where Jack taught in high school. Jack continued summer school at Denver University until he received his Masters Degree in Business Education in June 1952. Also on June 29, 1952, our second son, Kirk Wyman Burger, was born.

In the spring of 1955, we moved to the Burger farm where Mother Burger still lived. Jack continued to teach at Clarks. The boys enjoyed the farm —



Jack Burger Family — 1979
Greg, Jack, Dorothy, Kim and Kirk

4 H, playing softball, attending Pleasant Hill school and attending church at Pierce Chapel.

Jack became Superintendent of Schools at Silver Creek in the fall of 1956 and commuted until moving to Silver Creek in 1964. Kimberly Faye was born on July 6, 1963 while her parents were still living on the farm. She attended Silver Creek Schools and graduated in May 1981. Both boys graduated from Silver Creek Schools. Greg in 1966 and Kirk in 1970. Greg, married Annette Powers of Silver Creek on August 30, 1969.

Kirk was married May 31, 1980 to Alice Hardt of Casa Grande, Arizona. They both are teachers in the Casa Grande Public Schools. Both received their B.A. degrees at Arizona State College at Tempe.

We have made many friends and have enjoyed working in the Clarks — Silver Creek communities. Jack, of course, hopes he has touched the lives of some of these young people that he has worked with in his teaching that their lives may be somewhat enriched. *Submitted by Jack and Dorothy Burger*

WILBUR & JOSIE BURGER

Josie and Wilbur William Burger came to the Pierce Chapel neighborhood, an area northwest of Clarks, in 1901. They came from north of Rogers, Nebraska. The farm they purchased in Merrick County is now owned and occupied by Ethel, a daughter.

They had only enough money to purchase 200 acres of a 265 tract. The sixty-five acres on the north end of the farm was sold to Jake Inbody, a neighbor.

The house was old, with the foundation practically gone, but this was repaired and as a family of seven children came along this house was added onto with the inside rooms still a part of the house.

When Josie and William (Bill) came to Merrick County to this farm they had two children: George, now deceased, and Margaret Parker of San Diego, California. Other children born to this union and all growing up on this same farm: Mrs. Genevieve Wegner of Salem, Oregon, Mrs. Alnetta Moomey of Lincoln, Nebraska and Mrs. Ethel (Bobbie) Grafe of Clarks. The other two children were twins, Jack D. Burger of Silver Creek and Doris Moody of Salem, Oregon.

Milking cows was one of the ways the Burger family had to help buy groceries, and for this reason all children were taught how to milk cows at an early age. The milk was separated, the skim milk going to the calves or pigs and the cream saved for making butter. We children were also shown how a churn works and put to work churning butter. We were taught how to fold butter paper on one pound prints, which mother had made with her wooden bow, paddle and print.

The butter was then taken to Clarks on Saturday for distribution, and with this money the weekly supply of groceries for the family was purchased.



Will Burger Family

Mother also managed to save enough money from the sale of butter and also some buttermilk to purchase an eighty acre tract of land north of the home place. In later years this was sold for a profit and the money placed in the Bank of Clarks. However, in the early thirties the depression of that time forced the bank to close and with this closing many savings were lost. The bank did pay back some and with this the Burgers did remodel their home. Added by O.J. Jernberg of Central City, was electric lights by a 32 Volt Delco motor, hot and cold running water was installed by Ross, Hart and Cowgill and Chalmers Curry helped build a small basement under the old house.

We children are thankful for our parents guidance, help and supervision while growing up. We thank them for attending church services with us and seeing that we attended school regularly.

There was a time when our Aunt Georgia Black came to share our home. She had been handicapped by polio and her health was not good. We were her children too, and we all have fond memories of her caring for us.

To close this chapter Bill (Dad to us) passed away in June 1935. Josie, our Mother, stayed on the farm and passed away in December 1967. *Submitted by Jack Burger*

ELMER BURHOOP FAMILY

Elmer and Dorothy Snyder Burhoop moved to Central City, Nebraska, from New York County. Elmer was manager of the Miller-Hasslebach farm, which had been the east side of the Hord Home Ranch. Son Boyd was a small child when the family came to Merrick County. Sharon Jeanne was born at the York Hospital January 14, 1943, after they were living here at Central City. David and Ronald were born at Central City.

A few years later, Dorothy and Elmer bought the Fouts Ranch three miles north of Central City. Dorothy was a busy wife and mother. She always raised lots of chickens and did the largest Monday wash of anyone in the neighborhood. All of the family loved horses, and belonged to the saddle club.

Sharon attended Central City schools and graduated in 1960. She had worked as a nurses' aid at Litzenberg Memorial Hospital before going to Immanuel Hospital in Omaha to begin nurses' training. Sharon became suddenly ill and had surgery three times in four weeks before her death on October 23, 1961, at Immanuel Hospital. She was affiliated with the National Student Nurses Association and a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Central City, as was the rest of the family.

Dorothy Burhoop, born July 12, 1916, was injured and died as the result of a car-train accident one mile north of Central City on November 7, 1962. She had been to Polk, Nebraska, to get repairs for their machinery and was returning home.

October 10, 1967, while Elmer was seriously ill and hospitalized with a recent heart attack, son Ronald was injured in a car-pickup collision near Marquette, Nebraska. Ronnie passed away later that day. Ronald was born July 16, 1951, and was a junior in Central City High School at the time of his death. He was an ardent horseman, and had taken part in many riding shows and helped with family farming.

Elmer Burhoop was born November 27, 1911, at York and died November 17, 1968, at Central City, Nebraska. Elmer, Dorothy, Sharon and Ronald are buried at Central City. Dr. Boyd Burhoop attended Kansas State University at Manhattan and University of Nebraska. He is a veterinarian at York, Nebraska. He married Jean Marilyn Ross, daughter of Harold and Mae Ross. They have two sons and two daughters.

David Burhoop attended York College and lived in Lincoln, Nebraska, before and after being married. He was in cement and construction work, and now is in Texas.

HENRY & LUCINDA BURKE

Henry Burke was born in Pennsylvania 31 December 1813. His parents were "Pennsylvania Dutch" and Irish. Lucinda Kinslo was born in Ohio. They were married in Jefferson County, Ohio 29 June 1837.

They lived in Carrol and Mercer Counties in Ohio. Soon after June of 1870 the Burkes, accompanied by several of their family members came to Merrick County, Nebraska — "at which Time the Great American Desert had hardly yet begun to attract the attention of the agriculturist."

Shortly after their arrival Lucinda, aged forty-nine and the mother of thirteen children, died. It was near Christmas of 1871. She was buried on Burke land. Quite possibly she was the first person buried in the area now known as Burke Cemetery.

The land from which the cemetery was taken was homesteaded by William Kelly Burk with a Soldier's Homestead, 1 April 1871. It was SE¼ S18 T14 R6 in Lone Tree Township. The dwelling built upon it was described as "an Adobe Twelve by sixteen feet square. Then in June 1871 built a frame house Twelve by sixteen feet Square one story high Board floor and roof One door and one window." Other improvements listed were, "built a Stable dug a well and planted about Four hundred trees." Land records show that in 1873, shortly after the patent was issued for the land, Henry bought it from his son.

Knowing that the community in which he lived was in urgent need of a burial place, Henry Burke offered to give the needed land. In 1877 a cemetery association was formed.

School District #18 in Mead Township was commonly called the Burke School after this family.

Henry was a member of the Presbyterian Church. He was a supporter of it from its beginning in Lone Tree (later Central City). Two of his children and their spouses were charter members of the church.

Several of the Burke family were listed on the roll of legal voters of Lone Tree Precinct dated 1872. They were W.K. Burk, Henry Burke, John F. Burk, Henry F. Burk, and Samuel Leininger.

Henry died 7 September 1893 at the home of his daughter, Chrissa Jane Persons in Central City. He is buried in the Central City Cemetery beside Lucinda (records show that her remains were moved from the Burke Cemetery). Their graves are marked simply "FATHER" and "MOTHER."

Henry and Lucinda brought their family to a new life in a land that was not always friendly — now over one hundred years later many of their descendants, some of the seventh generation, are living the good life of Merrick County, Nebraska. *Compiled by Nancy B. Johnson*



Henry and Lucinda Burke

BURKE — BURK

Following are brief sketches of the thirteen children of Henry and Lucinda Burke. With the exception of the two that are believed to have died in childhood, all of the children lived in Merrick County at some time. This information has been compiled in the past three years (1978-1981). Descendents of six of the children have been involved in contributing material.

Very often Henry's sons dropped the final "E" on their last name. The next generation, however, again used the original spelling.



William K. Burk

William Kelly — born 9 January 1838 in Ohio, married Alice A. Whitaker, died 21 September 1900, buried Laramie, Wyoming. W.K. served in the Civil War and obtained the SE¼ of Section 18, Township 14, Range 6 in Lone Tree Township, Merrick County as a Soldier's Homestead. The couple were charter members of the Central City Presbyterian Church, later went to Wyoming with the U.P.R.R.

Nathan — born 21 February 1840 in Ohio, no other record, probably died in childhood.

Isaiah P. — born 11 January 1842, married Mary S. Skeels, died 6 September 1915, buried Central City Cemetery. I.P. served in Civil War, lived in Republic and Norton County, Kansas before coming to Central City.

Mary Ann — born 21 February 1844 in Ohio, married Samual Leininger, died 11 August 1902, buried Arcadia, Nebraska. Mary Ann and husband were charter members of the Central City Presbyterian Church.

Martha G. (Mattie) — born 25 December 1845 in Ohio, married John George Gagle, died 23 September 1886, buried Burke Cemetery.

Henry F. — born 13 July 1848 in Ohio, married Pheobe E. Skeels, died 27 December 1932, buried Central City Cemetery. He lived for a time in Republic County, Kansas returning to Merrick County in 1894. He was a member of the Methodist Church in Central City.

John F. — born 20 February 1850 in Ohio, married Susanna Fiffer/Phiffer. He went to Wyoming with the railroad.

Chrissa Jane — born 28 March 1852 in Mercer County, Ohio, married Harrison E. Persons, died 20 September 1929, buried Central City Cemetery. Jane and husband built building in 1886, 301 "G" Street, where Gambles Store is now located. After H.E.'s death in 1892 she ran the store known as H.E. Persons & Company. She later sold the store to her nephew, son of I.P., and it became known as Burke's Mercantile. She was a devout member of the Presbyterian Church.

Hiram George — born 10 July 1853 in Ohio, married Marietta E. Hall, died 2 May 1933, buried Snohomish, Washington. He was in the mercantile business.

Sarah E. — born 25 October 1855, died in childhood, buried in Carrol County, Ohio.

Elijah T. — born 20 February 1857 in Ohio. He lived in Central City in 1880 and was a clerk in a store. No other information.

Lucinda Alice Arene — born 29 September 1859 in Mercer County, Ohio, married Wilson Twidwell Morris, died 7 August 1939, buried Central City Cemetery. W.T. Morris was known to operate a dray service and a store in Central City. Alice was a member of the Methodist Church.

Margaret F. (Maggie) — born 1 February 1866, married Mathew T. (Cap) Robinson, died 24 December 1934, buried Seattle, Washington. Cap Robinson was engaged in the dray business in Central City. *Compiled by Nancy B. Johnson*



Burke daughters — **L-r** — Jane, Mary Ann, Margaret and Alice.

GEORGE T. BURKE FAMILY

When we bought and moved to our farm in Merrick County, N.E.¼ — 17-14-6, we found ourselves near Burke School and Burke Cemetery, named for pioneers who were not related to us. Our family consisted of George Thomas Burke, Evelyn Wallwey Burke, and our daughter, Eva Carolyn.

Our grandparents were pioneers in other parts of Nebraska. George's family came from Sweden, England, and Ireland, and settled in Polk County. Evelyn's grandparents came from Germany and settled in Dakota County and in Omaha.

George was born in Polk County, east of Stromsburg, on Octob er 20, 1905. He was educated in Polk County rural schools and Gresham High School. He farmed with his father until his marriage.

Evelyn was born in Omaha on November 7, 1904, and lived there with her parents until her mother's death in 1914. Her father was a printer. Then she lived with her aunts in Council Bluffs, Iowa, until her marriage. She went to school in Omaha and Council Bluffs, and graduated from the University of Nebraska. She taught in high schools in several Nebraska towns from 1926 to 1931. She also taught at Northwest High School near Grand Island from 1963 to 1970.

We were married on June 18, 1931. We farmed in Polk, Howard, Sherman, and Valley Counties before moving to our present farm in 1949. During these 31 years, we have participated in the neighborhood activities of District #18 school and Fairview United Methodist Church, Eastern Star, Branches of the Oddfellow Lodge, and the Central City community.

Eva Carolyn was born in Ord, Nebraska, on June 18, 1942. She started school at District #46 north of Polk, and attended Merrick County District #18. She graduated from Central City High School in 1959, and the Lincoln School of Commerce in 1960. She worked at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and was married in France in 1961 to Leon Kenneth Vanderheiden of Central City, who was in service there. On their return in 1962, they went to California, living in Oakland and in Fort Bragg. They now live in Seattle, Washington. Leon K. Vanderheiden was born on June 4, 1941. They have four daughters. Heidi May was born May 24, 1964. Ellen Louise was born August 25, 1967. Amy Lenore was born August 23, 1969. Rachel Ann was born July 19, 1971.

We retired in 1971 but still live in our farm home. *Submitted by Mrs. George Burke*

HUBERT M. BURRUSS FAMILY

Hubert Marcellious Burruss was born northeast of Clarks, Nebraska, March 12, 1899 to Thomas and Susan Campain Burruss. His grandfather, Thomas Foster Burruss, came from Orange County Virginia to Brownville, Nebraska in December, 1869 and to Clarks in the spring of 1892. Hubert's grandfather, John Campain, came to America from Sleafford, England in 1867 and came to Clarks in 1879.

Hubert Burruss married Mary Viola West December 24, 1923 at Osceola, Iowa. Mary, born March 8, 1904 at Fairfield, Iowa is the daughter of Frank Leslie and Jennie Dana West. The West ancestors came to America from England on the Mayflower in 1620.

After graduating from Clarks High School Mary attended Kearney State College then taught in the rural schools.

Before marriage, Hubert clerked one year in Cecil Layton's General Store in Havens and continued clerking Saturday evenings for several more years.

They farmed two years after marriage. In April, 1926, they moved to Clarks where Hubert was employed four years at the Farmers' Elevator Feed and Coal Company.

In March, 1930, Hubert and Mary moved to their farm 1½ miles West of Clarks which they had purchased during 1927. Many improvements were built on the farm throughout the coming years. Renting also other land, the 200 acres were farmed by using horses and mules and laboring many long hours.

Hubert enjoyed working with livestock and soon began feeding hogs, sheep and cattle, always keeping saddle horses for working cattle. In the 30's and early 40's our fat cattle and sheep were driven to the stockyards and shipped by rail to Omaha or Chicago.

Hubert belonged to a Saddle Club which performed at the Merrick County Fair, doing fancy drills and square dancing with their horses. They accepted invitations to perform in other towns.

Hubert was active in community affairs being a 4H Baby Beef Club leader for several years. He served on the Clarks School Board as Treasurer 15 years. He was elected President of The Bank of Clarks in January 1952 which position he held until death from a heart attack on December 27, 1970.

Hubert was a member of the Clarks Methodist Church, Past Master of Solar Lodge No. 134 A.F.&A.M. of Clarks, a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason and Tehama Temple Shrine in Hastings, Nebraska, a 52 year member and Past Noble Grand of Odd Fellow Lodge and Past Patriarch of the Encampment.

Mary holds membership in the Clarks United Methodist Church since 1919. In September 1979 during the Church's Centennial Celebration Mary was honored for having 60 years of continuous active membership. She is also active in United Methodist Women's organization, is Past Matron of Ivy Chapter No. 210 O.E.S. of Clarks, Past Noble Grand of Rebekah Lodge being a 54 year member, Past Matriarch of the Ladies Encampment Auxilary, and participates in many other community activities.

We were the parents of one child, Jay Robert Burruss born December 31, 1936. Upon retiring in 1965 we sold our 320 acre farm to our son and moved to Clarks where Mrs. Burruss still resides. *Submitted by Mrs. Hubert (Mary) Burruss.*



Hubert and Mary Burruss
45th Wedding Anniversary
Christmas 1968

JAY R. BURRUSS FAMILY

Jay Robert Burruss, the son of Hubert M. Burruss and Mary West Burruss was born December 31, 1936 in Grand Island, Nebraska. For my heritage background refer to grandfather Frank West and father Hubert Burruss biographies.

I graduated from Clarks High School in May, 1955 and attended Agriculture College one year at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. After College, I drove semi-trucks for Booth Transfer.

I was a member of the 4H Clarks Junior Stockman Baby Beef Club, showing many Grand Champion and purple ribbon calves at Merrick County Fair, State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben.



Jay R. and Charlotte Burruss
1979
Mickey, Marty and Ginger

Jay Robert Burruss and Charlotte Ann King were married September 7, 1958 in the Fairview Methodist Church north of Central City, Nebraska. Charlotte, the daughter of Ivan and Winona Black King, was born April 18, 1939 in Amboy, Illinois. She is a graduate of Central City High School and of the Grand Island Beauty School. After our marriage we resided in Clarks where Charlotte opened the Cut and Curl Beauty Shop, also playing for several summers on the Clarks Ladies' Softball Team.

I continued driving trucks for a while then entered into partnership farming with my father.

In March, 1965, we bought my parents 320 acre farm located one and one half miles west of Clarks and moved there in July, 1965. My parents, having lived there thirty-five years, retired and moved into Clarks where my Mother still resides. Hubert, my Father, passed away December 27, 1970.

Charlotte established a beauty shop on the farm which she still operates.

Jay R. and Charlotte Burruss are the parents of three children. Marty Jay, born October 30, 1960, graduated from Clarks High School May, 1979, and is now doing farm work.

Ginger Ann, born June 7, 1964, is aJunior in Clarks High School, participates in volley ball and basket ball. During the summer for the past five years she has been the pitcher for her soft ball team.

Mickey Bert, born January 7, 1969 is in the sixth grade and in his first year of Junior Band.

Many Sundays our family enjoys boating at Sherman Reservoir near Loup City, where we fish and water ski.

The children are in 4H Horse Club and a Roping Club. They thoroughly enjoy their horses, winning many top honors and trophies at the County Fair, District, State and Ak-Sar-Ben competition. Ginger breaks the colts and trains her own horses.

In 1979 Ginger was crowned Queen of the Lone Tree Rodeo Association of Central City. She and Marty participate in Rodeo events during the year.

We are all members of the Clarks United Methodist Church except Mickey who is a preparatory member. All participate in church work.

I am treasurer of the Township Board, am a Past Master of Solar Lodge No. 134 A.F. & A.M. of Clarks, a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason and Tehama Shrine of Hastings.

Besides farming, I am a cattle feeder shipping fat cattle to the Omaha market, I also have the dealership for Purina Feeds. *Submitted by Jay Robert Burruss*

OTTO BUTT FAMILY

In Merrick county in 1909, August and Augsuta Butt paid $55.00 an acre for their land.

August Butt came to America from Holstein, Germany, to Western, in Saline county. Augusta Butt was a native of Pummer, Germany, and settled in the town of Fairbury. The two were married in October, 1893, and lived in Saline county. Their eleven children were born there: Adolph and Marie who died in childhood, Frank who died as an infant, and Paul, who died at age sixteen. Rynold, Elsie, Bertha, Helmet, Hannah, Otto, and Fritz, grew to adulthood.

Otto Butt came to Merrick county when he was seven years old. His family took the train to Central City, then rode in a lumber wagon to their new home. They had 160 acres located three miles east, five and one half north, and one fourth west of Central City.

Otto attended school at District #50, completing the eight grades in ten years. He went to school only in the winter because of farm work.

In April of 1923, Otto attended a party in Central City where he met Susie Doncheski. They dated, and were married on October 1, 1923, at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grand Island. Susie Doncheski was born on October 16, 1902, at Scotia, one of eleven children of Theodore and Katherine Doncheski.

Otto and Susie started their married life in the home that they now occupy, soon to be 58 years. Otto remembers that on their wedding night they had to take his mother to the doctor for her gall bladder trouble.

Four children were born to them, Adolph, born on October 9, 1925, Katherine Kanter, November 3, 1927, Illa Jean Bartow, July 12, 1931, and Dorothy Irwin, February 10, 1933. All the children attended, and graduated from District #50. There was a Sunday School established at District #50 that Otto's family attended since its beginning in 1925. Otto served as Sunday School superintendent and as a teacher. He served on the school board as treasurer for 25 years. Every three months a birthday supper was held at District #50. People in the community provided the talent for the programs. Susie was a member of the CSC, a community social club, and the Circle, a women's Bible study.

In 1963, they joined the First Christian Church in Central City. Otto was a deacon and is presently serving as elder and as trustee of the church. He also taught Sunday School for several years. Susie is a member of Dorcas Circle and Missionary Society.

Otto has been a farmer all of his life, and for 35 years he sold Pioneer Seed Corn. Susie and Otto celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary in 1973.

They have seven grandchildren, Wayne, Patricia, Sally, Robert, Deborah, Kevin, and Karla. Kevin died in September, 1974. They have 13 great-grandchildren. Otto is still farming his home place with his son Adolph. *Submitted by Karla Person*

FRANK & MINNIE BYRNS

Minnie Fullerton Byrns, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D.T. Fullerton, was born September 6, 1889, near Palmer, Nebraska. She attended school there, and then Central City College, to the best of our knowledge.

Frank Emmerson Byrns was born December 13, 1881, at Kankakee, Illinois. In 1884 his family moved to Meade County, Kansas. Meade is where he called home, tho he lived for short times elsewhere.

Minnie and Frank's romance had its origin in Springfield, Missouri, where both were employed as nurses in a hospital there. On June 11, 1913, they were married at Meade, Kansas, in the home of Frank's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Byrns.

They remained in Meade and were still living there at the time of her death. Minnie passed away September 23, 1932, in the hospital at Dodge City, 42 miles northeast of Meade, at the age of 43 years and 17 days.

Minnie was a lover of flowers. Their beautiful home in the east part of Meade was very visible. Their large yard was arrayed with roses, ferns, peonies, and other flowers, also lily ponds with fish in and a drain-off pond with cattails growing in it. Still she found time to crochet, tatt, and piece quilt tops, besides taking care of her house and family.



Frank and Minnie Fullerton Byrns

They were the parents of two sons, Gordon Fullerton born September 29, 1914, and Leland Truman born December 16, 1924. Gordon, being 17, finished high school and then went to college at Wichita, Kansas. Frank worked as janitor at the school while Leland, age 7, continued his schooling.

Over the next several years they moved several times, ending up on a farm in Idaho. Frank's health seemed better there, but when Gordon was called to the service, they sold the farm, and Frank and Leland returned to Meade, Kansas.

Gordon married in 1943 while in the service. After a long and unhappy marriage, they were divorced. Then in 1970, he met a wonderful woman named Peggy, and they were married March 10, 1971. They live in DeLand, Florida.

Leland and Ruby Vogts Byrns met at the hospital at Dodge City in May of 1945, were married July 29, 1945. Leland's father lived with us most of the time until his death February 15, 1962. On February 19, he was laid to rest beside his Minnie in the Graceland Cemetery at Meade, Kansas. Leland, Ruby, Donald, and Michael live in Canton, Kansas.

Leland and Ruby are the parents of Shirly Ann, born July 7, 1946; Ronald Laverne, stillborn February 4, 1950; Donald Dean, born February 10, 1954; Michael Ray, born September 10, 1957; Marvin Wayne, born January 2, 1959 and died by drowning August 5, 1973.

Shirley married Kenneth Wilson on December 1, 1968, and have given us three grandsons: Darin Lee, born August 31, 1969; James Jay, born November 29, 1974; and Matthew Wayne born April 8, 1979. Shirley and family live near Hutchinson, Kansas. *Submitted by Leland and Ruby Byrns*

GERALD & EDITH CAHOW

Gerald Vaughn Cahow was born to Luther and Laura Fishburn Cahow in 1904. He attended school in Chapman and graduated in 1922, then worked for T.B. Hord Ranch for one year, after which he was employed at the Chicago Lumber Company in Chapman.

On August 16, 1925, he was married to Edith Mary Volkman, daughter of Emil and Margaret Volkman. Edith was also a graduate of Chapman High School in 1922, and taught school for three years.

In December, 1927, Vaughn was transferred to Fairfield, Nebraska, to manage the Chicago Lumber Company yard. That year he was honored by the Nebraska Lumber Dealers Association for being the youngest lumber yard manager in Nebraska.

In July, 1925, Vaughn was transferred to Belgrade, Nebraska, to manage the company's hardware and lumberyard. The family lived here for eleven years. A daughter, Patsy Rae, was born June 10, 1932. In August, 1938, the family moved to Grand Island, Nebraska, where Vaughn was assistant manager until March, 1941, when he was transferred to the home office in Omaha, Nebraska. He served as manager of the wholesale dept., and later as manager of the Omaha Lumber yard until his death on February 10, 1960, at age 55 years. He was a charter member of the Order of DeMolay of Grand Island, Nebraska and a member of Friendship Masonic Lodge in Chapman. He joined the Scottish Rite and Tangier Temple of Shrine in Omaha. He was also active in the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Concord Club, Mid-West Employers Council and, other organizations. Governor Victor Anderson made him an Admiral in the Great Navy of Nebraska.

The Cahow family were members of Pearl Memorial Methodist Church. Edith is a 51-year member of Eastern Star.

Daughter Patsy Rae attended Omaha schools and graduated from the University of Omaha in 1951. She made the Dean's Honor Roll, and was president of Alpha XI Delta Sorority. She and Robert Murray of Omaha were married September 5, 1951, in Pearl Methodist Church. Two girls, Marilyn Sue and Janet Lynn, were born to them. Marilyn Sue graduated from University of Omaha and is employed by F.D.I.C. out of Mason City, Iowa. Janet Lynn graduated from Nebraska Dental College in Lincoln in May, 1981. The Murrays still live in Omaha where Robert has taught in high school for over twenty years. *Submitted by Edith Cahow*

LUTHER & LAURA CAHOW

Luther Straight Cahow was born at Stuart, Iowa, December 21, 1872. He came to Chapman, Nebraska, in 1881 and lived on a farm near there for two years. In 1883 he moved to town and lived with an uncle, Jack Laub, for 12 years, then lived with his sister, Edna Donovan, for a year.

His father was Homer Cahow, who came from a large family that lived in Illinois and Ohio. Later, many moved to Iowa. Several men in the family served in The War of The Rebellion. Homer served in the Civil War and was Gen. Grant's body guard. He was wounded at the 2nd. Battle of Corinth. He is buried with the Civil War Veterans in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Omaha Nebraska.

The Cahows were originally from England, and lived in Maryland for several geneartions.

Luther had several brothers and sisters. Two of them, Henry Cahow and Mrs. Edna Donovan, lived around Chapman.

In 1894, at age twenty-two years, Luther went to Cheyenne, Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, and the Black Hills where he rode the range.

In 1896 he returned to Chapman, and worked on the T.B. Hord Ranch for two years. In 1898 he purchased the Chapman Barber Shop from John Laub.

Luther married Laura Mae Fishburn, daughter of Riley Fishburn and Emmma Vermillion Fishburn, on April 10, 1901. They had one son, Gerald Vaughn, born March 25, 1904.

Luther was a member of Friendship Masonic Lodge No. 239 for fifty-two years. He was a colorful character. He served as umpire for the Chapman baseball teams for many years. He played the trumpet in the Chapman marching band, and also in an orchestra in which his wife Laura and son Vaughn played trombones.

In 1947, a roving photographer took pictures of the barbershop interior. They were printed in Life magazine and New York Times. The author, Wright Morris, used the pictures in his book, "The Home Place." He wrote several pages of dialogue between Luther and his customers, but referred to him as Eddie.

Luther worked as a barber for over fifty years. He eeveloped heart trouble and was forced to sell the shop. He died Nov. 5, 1950, at age seventy-seven years.

Laura Mae Cahow was the first Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star in Chapman, and the chapter was named "Laura Mae Chapter" after her. She was a faithful member of the Chapman Baptist Church for over seventy years. She had an excellent singing voice, and sang in the choir and for many social events over the years.

Luther and Laura are buried in the Chapman cemetery. *Submitted by Edith Cahow*

CLIFFORD & EVA CALEY

Clifford R. Caley and Eva E. Clark were classmates in Sterling, Nebraska High School, becoming engaged in 1912, married September 10, 1913. Their three children are Gayle Anderstrom (born August 24, 1915) of Naples, Florida. Patricia James (born April 16, 1923) of Grand Junction Colorado. Clark Caley (born January 26, 1933) of Clarks, Nebraska. There are nine grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

C.R's parents owned and operated the Telephone Exchange at Sterling, Nebraska, teaching their three sons the business at fifteen years of age.

After graduation C.R. was manager of Adams Nebraska Telephone Exchange. Eva, having taken normal training, taught school for one year.

Five years later WWI was raging. C.R. resigned his position and attended Lincoln Business College, then taking communication training at the University, preparing to be drafted into the Army.

In July 1918, the President of Springfield Bank persuaded us to move to Springfield, August 1, 1918. C.R. became a cashier. While there, we were active in Methodist Church, community affairs. C.R. was a member of Town Board thirty-five years, school board member, and had Masonic and Eastern Star affiliations. Eva served as treasurer of church thirty years.

While President of Local Women's Club, we voted to establish a town library. The bank permitted us to erect a building on one side of bank. The response to our needs for donations of books was overwhelming.

Later the President of Nebraska Federation of Womens Clubs appointed me chairman of Community Services. Later I was elected County President, State Vice-President in 1937, State President 1939 and General Federation Director in Nebraska 1941-43. This meant much traveling over the State, visiting clubs, conventions, board meetings in Washington D.C. It was an honor to be chosen leader of an organization of 16,000 members.

In 1941-42 Governor Dwight Griswold appointed me a member of Nebraska Advisory Defense Committee, consisting of threc women and twenty-three men who met in Lincoln, Nebraska monthly.

I served thirty-four years on State Board of Nebraska T.B. Association, as President three years. Presently I am an active member of the American Mothers Association of Nebraska.

In December 1952, slipping on the ice twice, falling on his back, C.R. underwent two surgeries in ten hours on New Years Eve.

In 1954, due to C.R.'s poor health, we sold our interest in Springfield, planning to retire in Colorado. In August 1954, we attended our son Clark and Peggy Wells marriage in Greeley, Colorado. Enroute home we learned the Bank of Clarks was for sale. Checking this out, C.R. was sure he would be happy working and with good help, could handle the responsibilities; so we moved to Clarks October 1, 1954. Sharing seven years of happiness and contentment, we were close to one daughter and her family. Then C.R. died suddenly in the Bank December 12,

1961.

Our son, Clark, resigned his position as cashier of the Bank of Alamosa, Colorado in February 1962; moving his wife and son, Chris to Clarks March 1, 1962 to take over his father's position. In 1964 a little girl, Kathy arrived.

It has been the light of my life to have them close by.

With my family scattered from coast to coast, travel has been my hobby. I have travelled to Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, four trips to Europe, Spain, Egypt and the Holy Land. *Submitted by Eva Caley*

CAMPBELL FAMILY

The first settlement in what is now Porter Township, Porter County, Indiana was made during the years 1834-35 when Samuel Campbell, Isaac Campbell, Newton Frame and a few others located in that part of Porter County.

Samuel Campbell was born in Jefferson County, Tennessee November 14, 1797, the eldest son of 11 children of John and Sara (Vance) Campbell, natives respectively of Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Samuel attended school at intervals until he was 14 and then helped on the family farm until about 28. The family then moved to Preble County, Ohio, and settled on a piece of land that John Campbell had entered in 1816. John Campbell had enlisted in June, 1778 as a private in the Virginia State Troops and served six months and twelve days. He resided at Bedford County, Virginia during the Revolution.

On September 22, 1823, Samuel Campbell married Elizabeth Frame, a daughter of William and Elizabeth Frame, and to this union eight children were born. They were Margarette J. (Mrs. Silas Grigg), Amanda (Mrs. LaCount Lambert), Newton J., William F., John F., Sarah Elizabeth (Mrs. James H. Kenworthy) and Nancy T. (Mrs. David Peck).

John Campbell died in 1847, according to Porter County and Lake County History published by Weston Goodspeed.

Samuel Campbell moved his family to Porter County, Indiana, where he entered forty acres of land. He died on January 19, 1884, near Gates Corner, Indiana of typhoid fever.

Sons of Samuel and Elizabeth Campbell, William Francis and John Frame Campbell, homesteaded in Merrick County, Nebraska, near Palmer.

William F. Campbell married Florissa Ann Curtis in 1862 in Porter County, Indiana. William served in the Civil War. They had 11 children.

Silas married Mary Lucy Owens and they had three children: Isaac, Estella and Walter.

Leander married Mary McCann, and later Flora Newlon. Leander had a son, Harold.

Sabrina married Clarence Newlon; their children: Charles, Lyle, Flora and Florence.

Mahala married Sherman Cox and they had no children.

Elexander Prior married Cora Farlee. They had 8 children: Lloyd, Leona, Raymond, Thelma and Wayne, and lost a baby girl and twin boys.

Homer married Cora Newlon; their children were Iris and Leonard.

William Orlando married Salena Nicholas; they had two children: G. Leo and Elsie Marie.

Robert married Hattie Arrants; they had 4 children: Lucille, Ronald, Kenneth and Mary Louise. Later, Robert was married to Hazel Day.

Walter married Mabel Adams and later Lena Glause. Mahala Campbell was the daughter of Walter and Lena.

Francina married Arthur Nicholas. They had two daughters, Ruby Elnora and Iola Elaine. It is through the efforts of Francina that much of this information has been compiled.

Ruby Campbell married Bert Alfred Ross. Their children are Beulah, Dorothy, and Jean.

John Frame Campbell and Matilda Penrose were married in Knox County, Indiana, in 1865. They homesteaded on 80 acres 1½ miles south of Palmer. Their children were Samuel, Elmer, Etta (Mrs. Wm Bice), Nancy (Mrs. Peter Peterson), Mary (Mrs. John Coolidge), Clara (Mrs. James Kyle), Andrew, Laura (Mrs. Edward Terry), Myrtle, and Delbert. *Submitted by Beulah Ross Scarborough*

JOHN CAMPBELL FAMILY

Etta Campbell Bice was born in Valpraiso, Indiana, October 28, 1869. Her parents were John Frame Campbell and Matilda Penrose Campbell. In 1874 the family moved to a homestead 1 1/2 miles south of Palmer, Nebraska. There she grew to womanhood and married William Henry Bice in 1892.

Three children were born to them, Lawrence S. of Paradise California, Ethel Bice Tilley of Grand Island, Nebraska and Stanley B. Bice of Central City.

William and Etta Bice are buried in the Chapman cemetary. Many of the Campbell family are in the Palmer, Nebraska Cemetery, including John F. and Matilda Campbell.

The John Campbell's first lived in a sod house and I have heard my mother tell of snakes coming down through the roof and hanging in the rafters. It was difficult to keep such a house clean. They later built a frame house and during this time many friendly Indians stopped for a hand out, and they were always fed.

Mother told of going to school one winter morning in the year of 1888 without a wrap because of the unseasonably warm weather. Before school was dismissed it was snowing hard and had turned very cold. It was difficult to make it home, but all of the children arrived home safely. Many people lost their lives in that great blizzard of 1888.

Etta Campbell Bice had three brothers; Elmer, Andrew and Delbert. Five sisters; Nancy, Mary, Clara, Laura and Myrtle.

John Frame Campbell was the son of Samuel and Elizabeth Frame Campbell. Samuel was born in Jefferson County, Tennessee in 1797. Elizabeth Frame was born in Preble County, Ohio in 1805. To this union were born, Margaret, Amanda, Marcus, Newton, William, John Frame, Sarah and Nancy. Both Samuel and Elizabeth are buried in Porter County, Indiana.

Samuel, my great grandfather, was the son of John Campbell, born in Bedford County, Virginia in January 1761, and Sarah Vance was born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1772.

To this union was born, Samuel, Jane, Elizabeth, Archibald, Mary, James, Andrew, Robert, William, Alexander and Nancy.

John Campbell, my great great grandfather, enlisted and served in the Virginia State Troups during the American Revolution. John Campbell died in 1847 in Preble County, Ohio and his wife Sarah died in 1858. Both are presumed buried in Preble County, Ohio.

I hope these names and dates and locations of the Campbell family may someday help our posterity to establish family connections. *Submitted by Stanley B. Bice*

WILLIAM F. CAMPBELL

William Francis Campbell was born at Deep River, Porter County, Indiana, on February 27, 1837, to Samuel and Elizabeth Frame Campbell. He married Florissa Ann Curtis on New Year's Day, 1862. Their marriage is recorded at the Courthouse in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Military records show that William enlisted in the Union Army in November, 1864, and served until June or July of 1865 with Company C, 38th Regiment, Indiana Infantry.



Mr. and Mrs. William F. Campbell

William and Florissa brought their six young children, Silas, Leander, Sabina, E. Mahala, A. Prier, and Homer, to Lone Tree, Nebraska, and in 1873 took up residence on the family farm about one mile south of Palmer. They resided there for 38 years. While living there, five more children were born: Orlando, Robert, Walter, Francina, and Ruby.

In 1911, they retired from the farm and resided in Palmer. Their son, Prier, and his wife, Cora Farlee, lived on the farm for many years until they, in turn, retired to the William F. Campbell home in Palmer.

It is remembered that William F. always wore a long, full beard. Florissa was noted for the many beautiful quilts she made. I am lucky to have a piece from one of my great-grandmother's quilts in my possession.

William F. Campbell died on October 11, 1924, and Florissa passed away on May 14, 1932. *Submitted by Dorothy Campbell Heinemann*

LEANDER CAMPBELL FAMILY

My great, great, great grandparents were John and Sarah Campbell. John was born in February, 1761, in Bedford County, Virginia; Sarah was born in January, 1772, near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. John enlisted in the Virginia State Troops and served as a Private during the American Revolution. There were 11 children in the family, the oldest being Samuel. He became my great, great grandfather.

Samuel Campbell was born September, 1797, in Jefferson County, Tennessee. Until he was 28 years old, he helped on the home farm. The family then settled in Preble County, Indiana, on land that John Campbell had entered in 1816. In 1823, he married



Leander and Mary E. McCann Campbell

Elizabeth Frame. She was born in 1805 in Porter County, Indiana. Samuel and Elizabeth had 8 children. In 1831, Samuel moved his family to 40 acres of land in Porter County, Indiana. This home was destroyed by fire in 1862 and nearly all the contents destroyed. In 1883, he broke his leg from which he never recovered. After coming down with typhoid, he died in 1884 at eighty-six years of age at his residence.

Samuel and Elizabeth's fifth child was my great grandfather, William Francis Campbell. He was born in February, 1837. He married Florissa Ann Curtis (born, October 1843) in January of 1862. William was a Civil War veteran. After the war, they moved to Lone Tree (later Central City), Nebraska. Sometime later, they moved to the 160 acre Campbell homestead near Palmer where they lived for thirty-eight years.

Leander Jaret Campbell, born August, 1864, was the second child of William Francis and Florissa

Ann. Altogether there were 11 children.

Mary McCann born March 25, 1870; married Leander February 25, 1891, they moved to the farm one mile west of Palmer, Nebraska. They had one child, Harold, my father. At first there was a log cabin on the farm, later a house was built. Grandmother died September 4, 1917. Leander married Flora Lillian Newlon, April 14, 1920. She was born March 19, 1873 and died November 2, 1922.

June 7, 1926, my father, Harold married Elma Ellen Weber of Palmer. There were 4 children, Barbara, Richard, John and myself. I remember my grandfather as always being interested in what we were doing. We would take broken toys to him to be repaired. He would build something for us if we asked him.

We attended the Church of Christ in Palmer and much of our social life was connected with it. That was always enjoyable. I liked school and attended the Palmer Public School system.

During High School days, I had a desire to attend Bible College. After working for the telephone company awhile, I chose Western Bible College in Denver, Colorado. In my work for Wycliffe Bible Translators, I spent thirteen years in Old Mexico. I always enjoy returning to Merrick County and particularly the Palmer area. *Submitted by granddaughter, Helen Elizabeth Campbell.*

ROBERT CHARLES CAMPBELL

Robert was the eighth of eleven children born to William Francis Campbell and Florissa Ann Curtis. Robert was born January 12, 1878. He spent his early years in and around Palmer and Central City, and was educated in the Merrick County schools. When he was fifteen, the railroad entered the county, and Robert worked building railroads.



Robert C. Campbell — 1944

October 4, 1900, Robert was united in marriage to Hattie Arrants. They had gone to country school together. Hattie was the daughter of Noise Coates and Mary Ann Haddix. Robert and Hattie had four children: Lucile, Ronald, Kenneth, and Mary Lou. Campbell's first home was in Palmer, where Lucile was born in 1902. Robert farmed for others, and also worked with the railroad. He moved to Grand Island, where he was a Burlington Railroad worker, and worked in a machine shop.

About 1903 the family moved to Sheridan, Wyoming, for a short time. They returned to Greeley, where Ronald was born in 1906. Robert was a section foreman with the railroad part of the time at St. Paul, where Kenneth was born in 1909.

In 1910, Robert's family moved to a farm south of Palmer, at the intersection of Highway 92 and the Palmer road, northwest corner of the intersection. Mary Lou was born here in 1913.

In 1918, Robert's family moved to the Thedford Ranch in Thomas County. In January of 1922, they moved to Liberty, Missouri, where Robert farmed for others. They moved back to Palmer in 1924. They moved to the Traver farm east of Central City in 1925. This was a part of the Hord Ranch. In late 1929, Robert's moved to Lincoln. May 23, 1930, Hattie passed away in Central City at the A.C. Nicholas home where they were visiting while attending a graduation. She died of apoplexy, or a stroke. In Lincoln, Robert ran a grocery store and filling station. Robert, Kenneth, and Mary Lou stayed in Lincoln until 1931, at which time Robert and Mary Lou returned to Central City, Nebraska.

Robert farmed for A.B. McHargue and ran a filling station. Mary Lou worked for Dr. Boyd and helped him deliver the Scholl triplet daughters: Janet, Janice, and Joan.

Mary Lou later married John Holtz. Robert became a janitor at South Ward school in Central City, where he met and married Hazel Day on June 3, 1935. Robert died in May, 1966, and is buried by Hattie in Rose Hill Cemetery, Palmer. He was a lifetime member of the Christian Church, and served as an elder and deacon.

Hazel died in 1980, and is buried in Central City Cemetery.

Ronald is living in Quail, California. Kenneth is in Burbank, California. Mary Lou and John Holtz are buried in Columbus, Nebraska. Lucile (Mrs. Raymond Page) is living in Central City. (See Page story). *Submitted by Lucile Campbell Page*

LLOYD CAMPBELL FAMILY

Lloyd Vernon Campbell was born on a farm near Palmer on August 15, 1899, to A. Prier and Cora M. Farlee Campbell. He attended Palmer School. He left school at the tenth grade to do the farm work while his father was recuperating from an illness.

Dad was interested in music at an early age. When he was eight or nine years old, his father bought him a trombone, and he played in various area bands. I can remember being able to attend numerous county fairs because Dad was playing in the band. Later, my brother, Dale, played Dad's trombone during the years he attended Central City Schools.

Dad's brothers and sisters were Leona, Raymond, Thelma, and Wayne. Dad is the only one still residing in Merrick County.

Dad and our mother, Doris M. Anderson, were married at Council Bluffs, Iowa, on November 22, 1922. Dad farmed in the early years of their married life, then became involved in road construction and operating heavy equipment. This work led him to many parts of Nebraska, although his residence remained at Central City. Later, he did much land leveling for irrigation, and entered into a company with my brothers, Dale and Duane, until he retired.

Our mother raised big gardens, chickens, and did lots of canning and sewing during our growing-up years.

Dad and Mother always enjoyed their family and grandchildren, and took pride in all our accomplishments. One of the happy occasions we all remember was Dad and Mother's Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1972. Our mother died on July 1, 1973.



Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Campbell
50th Anniversary

I, Dorothy, was the oldest child in Mom and Dad's family, born February 29, 1924. I grew up in Merrick County and taught in rural schools there for a few years. I married Leo Heinemann of Madrid, Nebraska, in November of 1954. We are parents of three children: Kay (now Mrs. Larry Demaree), Kurt, and Karolyn. Leo and I live in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

My sister, Jean, was born on July 7, 1925. She has continued to live in Central City, and has worked for various businesses there. Donald, born May 8, 1928, has worked for the Union Pacific Railroad for many years as a brakeman. Leland Dale was born July 30, 1930, and married the former Twila Larson of Central City. Their children are Larry, Daniel, James, and Ann (now Mrs. Tim Christensen). Dale is an accountant. Duane was born September 18, 1932, and married Ellen Jacobsen of St. Paul, Nebraska. Their children are William, Rex, and Karen. Duane is presently working as a carpenter.

Writing this article has stirred my memory of many happenings during our growing up years in Merrick County. *Submitted by Dorothy Campbell Heinemann*

DUANE CAMPBELL FAMILY

Duane William Campbell was born September 18, 1932, at Palmer, Nebraska. He was the youngest son of Lloyd V. and Doris Anderson Campbell, whose story is recorded elsewhere in this history. His ancestors were early Merrick County pioneers. An earlier ancestor, John Campbell, fought in the American Revolution.



Duane Campbell Family

Duane attended school in Central City, graduating from high school in 1950. He worked briefly for Western Electric at Omaha, Nebraska, and Rapid City, South Dakota. Then he enlisted in the U.S. Navy for four years. He was stationed in the South Pacific, spending the last three years at beautiful Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Shortly after his discharge in 1956, he met his future wife, Ellen Ann Jacobsen, who was then attending the University of Nebraska.

Ellen was born on June 30, 1935, on her grandparents' farm near St. Paul, Nebraska. Her parents were Thorvald J. and Alice Cain Jacobsen. Ellen, with her two brothers and three sisters, attended rural District #12 and Bunker Hill School in Howard County. She graduated from St. Paul High School in 1952, and taught one year of rural school (Howard County District #39) at age seventeen. She then attended the University of Nebraska, graduating in 1957 with a BS Degree in Home Economics. She taught three years at Fullerton, Nebraska, one semester at Central City and, later, a year at Marquette. After her first year of teaching, she and Duane were married on June 22, 1958.

The Campbells purchased an acreage in the "College Section" northwest of Central City, about a block south of the historic Nebraska Central College campus (now Nebraska Christian High School). They have worked at remodeling their older home there during the twenty-three years of their marriage.

Duane was engaged in a land leveling business with his father and brother, Dale, for a number of years. Then he and Ellen opened a television and home appliance business in 1972. This, along with many other small businesses across the nation, was forced to close after the 1975 economic recession.

Duane went into construction carpentry and is presently working for Mid-Plains Construction Company of Grand Island, Nebraska. Ellen is currently the director and health educator of the Merrick County Health Department.

The couple has three children. William Charles, born March 18, 1961, is a student at Kearney State College. Rex Jonathan, born June 26, 1963, is a 1981 graduate of Central City High School. Karen Elizabeth, born February 5, 1965, is a high school junior.

All of the family belong to the United Presbyterian Church in Central City. Duane, Ellen, and Bill are ordained elders in the church. Ellen is presently serving as Clerk of the Session.

Duane and both sons have been involved in Boy Scouts of America. Bill attained the Eagle Scout rank in 1974. Ellen has been a 4-H leader for 21 years, and all three children have been active in 4-H. Other special interests of the Campbell family include birds and other wildlife, music, reading, creative work, and genealogy. All are proud of their Merrick County heritage. *Submitted by Duane and Ellen Campbell*

DOROTHY L. CAMPBELL

My parents, Quiznee and Dollie Lambert raised four daughters, of which I was third, my name is Dorothy Louise. I have many happy memories of life on the farm one mile east of Palmer. My favorite is the "Ole Well." It supplied the family and animals with water. Hot water was heated in the reservoir of the cook stove. The blades of the windmill whirling in the wind were a source of fascination. We were distressed when it was blown down by storms. Finally a gasoline engine replaced it.

Thoughts reflect on the immediate family and the hired help. Winter brought sled riding on the hills in the pasture. In the spring we cleaned and scrubbed the storage room. We furnished it as a play house using old furniture and rag rugs. My older sister, Ruth, made fringed curtains and doilies from feed sacks. We loved to gather vegetables from the garden, which was a nice walk in the fresh country air. There were picnics in the grove behind the house. Platters of fried chicken plus all the trimmings, home made ice-cream with mother's famous angel food or her lovely cinnamon cake with her special cream icings. Some times these occasions were graced by the minister and his family or neighbors and friends, to complete a beautiful day of sharing and pleasant memories.



Dorothy and Warren Campbell

There was the ride to town on Saturday in the old farm wagon or the buggy drawn by a good team of horses, to shop and visit with others about the happenings of the week. The high light of the trip was when papa bought us a heaping dip of ice-cream on a cone for *five cents*. Then there was the fun of "jumping rope", playing dominos, riding "Old Tim." He would'nt take a step but we loved to pretend. He had his own house and yard. We thought of him as a pet. He was huge and used for breeding purposes.

As we reflect it is most appropriate to pause and give thanks to our parents who made it possible to enjoy these blessings together. On Sundays and after picnics we usually gathered at the piano to sing hymns as mother played the piano.

An outstanding memory is the special meeting at the Methodist Church in town where I was converted when I was a very young child. When in High school my attention was attracted to other intrests, how-ever God kept his hand on me and drew me back to himself. The years on the farm were *super!* Most of all, we were taught of God and his love to us.

After high school I had one year at a Bible College in Missouri. There I met Warren James Campbell who was a senior from Sharon, Pennsylvania. Our marriage took place August 26, 1937, in my husbands home town. We have had a number of pastorats. Following World II, the Campbell family settled near Salt Lake City where we worked as missionaries for ten years. God's gorgeous mountains and breath-taking canyons kept our attention close to Him.

I was born June 23, 1915, Palmer, Nebraska.

Warren James Campbell, born March 27, 1916, Sharon, Pennsylvania.

We have two children: Matthew Warren, born September 29, 1938, Sharon, Pennsylvania, and Mary Louise, born January 24, 1942, Grove City, Pennsylvania. We have four grandchildren.

My husband is now pastor of The First Covenant Church, Cleveland, Ohio. *Written by Dorothy L. Campbell*

GEORGE CAMPBELL FAMILY



Mr. and Mrs. G.R. Campbell, Hazel and William — 1903

My father and mother arrived in Clarks after leaving Colorado in 1900. "Dad", George R., and his invalid brother, Robert, and a brother-in-law, Harry Wallace, then built Campbell Brothers Big Store that same year. Instead of Uncle Harry remaining as a partner, he returned to Denver, later on to bring Aunt Mary (Campbell) and establish residence and a general store in nearby Silver Creek (circa 1908).

Campbell Brothers Big Store was really big for the area in those days. It contained two stories of clothing, for both men and women, yardage goods, groceries, shoes, hats and notions, besides having one of the very finest china departments within miles. During the store's peak years, nine persons were employed. Dad's invalid brother, Uncle Robert, died in 1921. My father then decided to sell the store contents and rent the building to Mr. Bordy and Mr. Rosenthal.

"Dad" became President of the Farmers State Bank of Clarks, after being relieved of the store work. He also created a very popular dance hall at the top of the steepest stairway leading to the second floor of the store building. People came from miles to dance to the music of "road bands" as well as the local dance orchestras, such as Wilson's Orchestra, McDonald's Orchestra and McCormick's Family Orchestra of Silver Creek composed of father, mother, and two sons. They played for the square dances. Maxine Hayes and her All Girl Orchestra were also regulars from Grand Island. I believe Wilsons and McDonalds Orchestras were from Central City.

When the Campbells arrived in Clarks, the immediate family beside Dad and Mother consisted of Hazel and William. My sister, Helen, was born in 1904 and I was the last of our family to be born, in 1912, in the south-east corner room of our square white house on the corner west of the Congregational Church. The house was built for us in 1900.

Mother and Dad met in Louisville, Colorado, which is very close to Boulder. My grandparents are at rest in a cemetary in Louisville.

My oldest sister, Hazel, graduated from Clarks High School and married Mike Shonsey just before he went to World War I. She had a daughter and a son. He is also Mike Shonsey and is the family descendant who has continued living and raising his family on the Shonsey Ranch in Clarks. Hazel now resides at her home in Central City. William "Bill" moved to York, Nebraska, where he married Helen O'Brien. They, also, had a daughter and a son.

Helen Campbell taught school and then married Roy L. Turner. They had two daughters. The summer of 1928 was the year we moved to York and opened York's first pool hall, "The Cornhusker Club."



G. Robert Campbell

I am now, and have been, a professional musician and teacher of piano, living in San Francisco for the past forty years, but always feel my real home was back in Clarks, Nebraska, where I am still a member of the Congregational Church. *Submitted by G. Robert Campbell*

J.F. CAMPBELL

John Franklyn and Estella Balmat Campbell came to Central City in 1909 from northwest Merrick County where Frank had been in the cattle and horse business with his brother, Robert, in the early 1880's.

J.F. had been born and educated in Ohio and Iowa, after which he came to Fremont where he worked as foreman for a cattle company. His job was to take the train to Green River, Wyoming, the end of the line then, and after securing supplies they proceeded on horseback to the Southwest where they bought cattle which they trailed back to Fremont. Mr. Campbell made five such trips and left a fascinating journal of his experiences as a trail cowboy.

Stella Balmat was born in New York where her family had settled after fleeing France during the Reign of Terror, where they had lived near the guillotine in Place d'Concord. Her Grandfather's brother remained in France and was the first man to climb Mt. Blanc on the French side of the Alps. Her mother, Katie Goodrich, who was a teacher at the age of fourteen, was taken as governess for the children of a Wisconsin timberman. He did not return from a trip and was never seen again, but some Indians came by in a canoe and offered her

salvation by taking her to civilization. However, they stopped for the night at an Indian camp where the Indians started drinking, turning the night into a carousal which prompted her to attempt an escape. They were found by a trader coming up river who befriended them and took them near to their home by canoe. Shortly after that she married John V. Balmat in New York and they eventually came west to Alda, where the family settled to farm permanently. There Stella met J.F. and married him in 1882.

They lived on the ranch near Worms for seventeen years during which time their sons, Robert V., Franklyn B. and Donald T. were born. The boys attended the Grand Island schools. Their daughter, Roberta, was a special bonus after they moved to Central City.

After buying the Anthony Ranch at Paddock, Frank and his sons conducted an extensive stock feeding operation. They had acquired the ranch in 1906 but the family moved to town three years later.

Stella and Frank were dedicated workers in the Presbyterian Church as well as in the Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, the Shrine and Knight's Templar as well as my grandmother's activities in P.E.O., the Women's Club and other civic pursuits.

After the onset of World War I, Robert V. enlisted and went on to become a pioneer in the Air Service where he served as an instructor of fledgling pilots until the end of the War. Donald also enlisted and on the eve of his departure for France he fell ill with the flu and was declared hopelessly ill. His mother took the train to Washington, D.C., where she nursed him and two companions back to life but Donald never fully recovered from his damaged lungs. Franklyn had stayed at home to help his father on the Ranch, but when R.V. came home, J.F. bought another place in Alda where Franklyn was manager and Rob and Donald continued with the Central City spread.

Frank and Stella lived their lives in dignity, love, integrity and a lot of gambling — living off the land through dust storms, hail, drought, grasshoppers, and dog attacks on the stock. However, no kind of gambling per se was allowed in the home, until Stella learned to play bridge and canasta after the age of 70.

During the early days of the automobile, J.F.'s sons convinced him that his learning to drive was necessary since he had a Packard that looked unused. His main problem was stopping the car and yelling, "whoa," instead of using the brake, therefore making sizeable dents in the far end of the garage. This was solved by my father's ingenuity of having another door built at the back of the garage and a driveway running under the grape arbor and into the alley. When J.F. was ready to leave the farm he would call my grandmother and she would hurry out and open both doors. Yelling, "whoa," as he rounded the corner, he glided smoothly into the garage, or on out, without mishap.

What lovely reunions we had with three and sometimes four generations in attendance. The silver sheepbarn at Paddock; that had served as a landmark from the Union Pacific, Highway 30 and later from the air for over 80 years; had become a caricature by 1970. The house leaned, the windmill blew down. The elements of age and weather had taken their toll but R.V., our dad, didn't notice their ruin. He loved it as had his father, J.F., so until his death, they remained as the lifeblood of three generations of Campbell's. Now they are gone and maybe someday Janet and I can go there without lumps in our throats and a sense of loss as well as floods of memories.

Franklyn Balmat married Opal Woodard in 1920. Donald Templeton married Ina Burkman in 1921 and they had two daughters, Barbara and Patricia. Robert Victor married Margaret Ratcliff in 1926 and also had two daughters, Marianne and Janet. Roberta Pearl married David Engel in 1936 and they had two sons, Gary and John. *Submitted by: Marianna Campbell Myers*

DR. JOHN CAMPBELL

In March 1961 John and I (Mary Lou) moved to Central City with our four daughters, Carla, Mary, Kathleen and Beverly. John went into medical practice with Dr. Kenneth Treptow and their clinic was located two doors west of the elementary school gym. In 1963 a new clinic was built west of the Litzenberg Hospital.



Dr. John Campbell

After two years at 609 I Street we moved to an acreage formerly owned by Del Faeh on 28th street. In 1962 another daughter, Rebecca was born. Also that year John ran for Congress (unsuccessfully) in the 3rd District against incumbent Dave Martin.

John was born and raised near Siren, Wisconsin, moving to Council Bluffs and Omaha during his last year of High School. His father, Clarence A. (Gunny) Campbell was known in the Central City area as he was a Union Pacific conductor for many years from Omaha to Grand Island.

John was an officer in the US Navy for three and one half years during World War II and was graduated from the U. of Nebraska Medical School in 1951. While in medical school, John and I met and were married. I was graduated from Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing in Omaha. My parental home was near Holdrege, the daughter of Carl and Verna Leafren Bergstrom.

After a year's internship in St. Paul, Minnesota we sailed for Europe where we spent one year in Belgium studying French and completing a Tropical Medicine course. John felt God had called him to be a Medical Missionary to the needy people in Zaire (then the Belgian Congo) . . not only to heal physically but giving forth God's Word which can heal spiritually.

We served there for 7 years under the auspices of the Evangelical Free Church of America. 1960 brought independence to that country and much turmoil, the missionaries being evacuated. Because of a malignant melanoma discovered on John's back, we remained in the states and chose Central City as the place we wanted to raise our children. Another child, our sixth and only son, John Scott was born in July 67.

Dr. Campbell passed away in April 1968. I started working that summer as a Registered Nurse at Parkview Nursing Home, now Bethesda Care Center.



Dr. John Campbell Family — **L-r** — Mary Lou, Beverly, Mary, Karla, Becky, Kathleen, John.

We've appreciated the love and friendship we've found here and the care and concern shown our family following John's death. God has given strength for the day as He promised!

We have warm fellowship in the Evangelical Free Church which John helped organize here in 1964. John was also on the Board of Grace Children's Home in Henderson and on the Board at Nebraska Christian High School. He also served as Chairman and a S.S. teacher at church. Beekeeping and flying were hobbies he enjoyed.

I have been active in the Women's Missionary Society on local and district levels and a member of the T.P.M. extension club. I was able to return to Africa in 1972 to attend the fifty year celebration of missionary work in the Ubangi.

My family at present are: Carla (Mrs. Curt Carlson) of Marquette is a Registered Nurse and has two sons. Mary (Mrs. Jeff Judy) is a Registered Physical Therapist in Kansas City. Kathleen (Mrs. Joe Schrier) is a Registered Nurse in Omaha, Beverly will be graduated from Nursing in June 1981, Becky, a freshman at the University is considering Nursing. John is attending Nebraska Christian School, eighth grade. *Submitted by Mary Lou Campbell*

E.A. CARLSON FAMILY

My father, Ephraim Arvid Carlson, and my mother, Blanche Anderson, were both born in Marquette, Nebraska. Both sets of their parents were born in Sweden and came over to this country while young to make their home. My great grandfather's name was Karl Petter and this is how my grandfather got the name Carlson, as 'son' was added to the first name in each generation.



Roger D. Carlson, Blanche Carlson, E.A. Carlson, Rogene Carlson Shoup — 1955

I and my brother, Roger Dale, were born in Marquette at the farm later known as "Carlson Airport", used by both Merrick and Hamilton Counties until they got their own airports.

Since Grandfather Alek owned land in Merrick and adjoining Hamilton County, we moved to Hordville, to the scenic land along the Platte River, so Dad could become a cattle rancher as well as tiller of the soil. Since cedars grow profusely along the Platte, we had a dense forest. During the 1930's, when times were especially hard, dad sold millions of seedlings to buyers from all parts of midwest. The Platte also had lots of gravel, so the first gravel pumping done in both counties was done on our farm in 1929.

During the pumping, items from the past were uncovered, such as redwood tree log, dinosour bones, arrow heads, and spears. This, along with helmets, shell casings, etc., collected while an ambulance driver in France during World War I, aroused Dad's interest in collecting. This became a hobby that was to bring fame and much publicity. It took five buildings to house over 40,000 items collected in over thirty-seven different categories. At his farm museum, he would have as many as 1,000 persons go through this museum on guided tours, without charge, and the guest books show addresses that span the world, as does his collection. He was a

world traveler to three continents — Asia, Africa, and Europe, as well as twenty-one countries. After returning home, Dad and Mother entertained audiences with colored slides and detailed explanations. Some of their favorite pictures were of the Holy Land.

Because of the dense forest making the pasture unsuitable for grazing, he donated forty-six acres of scenic pasture land, today known as the "Covenant Cedars Bible Camp", which still attracts people and accommodates religious groups.

These trees also led to Dad's promoting straight roads that would lead directly to Central City and Hordville by giving his land, time, and effort, which are today enjoyed by many travelers.

I graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1946, and married Emmett L. Shoup in 1947 in Central City. We had three children — Karla Rae, Rhea Jo and Kim Alan.

Roger served in the Air Force and then got his degree in Engineering from the University of Nebraska. He has since been with the IBM plant in Owego, New York. Here he married Mary Louise Stiles, and had three boys — Gary Alan, Edward Dale and Andrew Arvid.

My parents are both deceased, and the farm museum has been moved to the Hamilton County Historical Plainsman Museum in Aurora, where his collection will continue to be enjoyed and seen by many. He will be remembered for being a most ardent collector of antiques, as well as a farmer and rancher, teacher, soldier, politician, and world traveler, and both he and my mother as devoted parents. *Submitted by Rogene Carlson Shoup*

MARION CARUTHERS FAMILY

Chapman will always be my "home" — because that's where my "roots" are, even though I have travelled and lived in many places.

My parents were David and Ethel (Ogden) Magnuson. My sister is Gladys (Magnuson) Vaughan of Los Alamitos, California. I was born April 5, 1920, in Chapman and graduated from high school with the Class of 1937.

I have vivid memories of those years, and especially of 1933 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt closed all the banks all over the nation. My father was cashier of the Chapman State Bank at the time, with Jack Roubal and Floyd Hirsch assisting. This was a blow to the community and to our family. My father mortgaged their new home in order to assure the depositors that their money was available. As a result, every single depositor stuck by their friend "Dave," and the Chapman Cooperative Credit Association was formed. Dave became the secretary-treasurer, and I was "hired" to do the book work and posting every day after school and on Saturdays for the next three years — without pay! Those were lean years, but I learned many important things — not only about banking, but how to get along with people and to have integrity and honesty — things I value today.

I attended Nebraska Wesleyan University and graduated in 1941. In August of the same year, I married Marion Forrest "Buck" Caruthers, who was a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. We subsequently moved twenty-six times in thirty-four years, being stationed in eleven states and five foreign countries. We have three children. Major Timothy David Caruthers is a C —5 aircraft commander at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, and is married to the former Kyle Seliger of Lubbock, Texas. Their children are Ainsley Ann, McKay Christian, and Brandon Forrest. Charles George Caruthers is a former Air Force Lieutenant and now a private flying instructor and is employed at Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas. He is married to Dr. Barbara Sue McMillin and they have one child, Larisa Ann. Our daughter Michelle is married to Dennis Clayton Roberts of Tallahassee, Florida, where we now reside.



Marion F. Caruthers Family — 1975

"Buck" retired as a Colonel from the United States Air Force in 1975, and we now are involved in the Air Force Association, the Retired Officers' Association, the Republican Party, Volunteer Reading Tutors, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. We also carry Meals on Wheels to senior citizens each week.

We love to return to Chapman to see our old home town, and to visit friends and relatives — and our children have many happy memories of Merrick County and of their "Gram and Gramp Magnuson." *Submitted by Sylvia Magnuson Caruthers*

CAVE-BORO

My father, John Francis Cave was born November 6, 1934 at Spalding, Nebraska to George W. and Mary Schliech Cave. He grew up in Genoa, Nebraska and graduated from Genoa High School in 1953. He has three brothers, Gilbert of Columbus, William Paul of Genoa, and James of Rochester, New York. Three sisters, Mary Ann Dickenson of Columbus, Margaret Beiermann of Fremont, and Betty Mustard of Silver Creek. George W. Cave was born January 8, 1895 at Albion, Nebraska to Ory and Lucinda Beeman Cave. Ory Cave was born in 1869 in Iowa and Lucinda Beeman was born in 1870 in Wisconsin. George Cave died December 19, 1980. Mary Schliech Cave was born April 1, 1902 in Vienna, Auztria to Louis and Mary Schwable Schliech. Mary Cave died February 12, 1981. George and Mary were married December 20, 1920 at Spalding, Nebraska.

My mother, Elizabeth Amelia Boro, was born May 28, 1936 in Genoa, Nebraska to Charles Frank and Anna Amelia Boro. The family lived northwest of Silver Creek and my mother attended school at Krakow until she was thirteen. The family moved to Silver Creek and my mother graduated from Silver Creek High School in 1954. My mother has four brothers, Phillip of Omaha; Frank who passed away in 1976; Leonard of Omaha; and Lawrence of Columbus. Five sisters, Victoria Baker of Silver Creek; Clara Geier of Columbus; Lorraine "Polly" Arnold who died November 17, 1977; Monica Hastings of Redondo Beach, California and Dorothy Cutsor of Silver Creek. Charles Frank Boro was born November 28, 1884 at Pilsno, Nebraska to Joseph and Katherine Czuba Boro, who came over from Europe in 1882. He had four brothers, Mike, John, Frank, and Joseph; two sisters, Anna and Veronica. Charles Boro died October 9, 1969. Anna Amelia Wetovick was born July 26, 1891 at Jackson, now known as Duncan, to Walter and Victoria Fida Wetovick, who came over from Europe in 1884. She had two brothers, August and Edward; five sisters, Sophia, Amelia, Ellen, Victoria, and Leona. Anna Wetovick Boro lives at the Morys Haven Nursing Home Columbus, and will be ninty years old in July. Charles and Anna Boro were married April 24, 1907 at Krakow, Nebraska.

My parents John Francis and Elizabeth, were married October 2, 1954 at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Silver Creek. They lived in Columbus until 1958, when they moved to Silver Creek. They have twelve children all born at St. Mary's Hospital in Columbus, Michael John born April 10, 1955 and lives in Lindsay, Lawrence Allen born February 1, 1957, married Barbara Jo Torson of Duncan, on March 5, 1976, at Columbus. They have two children, Amanda Jo born June 19, 1976 and Derek Allen born January 10, 1981.

Christine Ann born April 9, 1958, married Daniel Robert Cheloha of Phoeniz, Arizona on April 16, 1977 at St. Isodore Catholic Church in Columbus, Nebraska. They have two daughters, Melissa Mae born May 30, 1978 and Hannah Jo born February 15, 1980, both at the Columbus Community Hospital in Columbus, Nebraska. Chris and Dan live at 1815 10th Street in Columbus.

Scott Joseph was born May 28, 1959.

Catherine Mary born June 3, 1960, married Jerry Lance English of Fairbury, April 21, 1979. They have one son John Charles ("J.C.") born August 29, 1979. Herry, Cathy and J.C. live at 404 Sherman St. in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

Mark Edward born August 12, 1961, lives at 808 W Division, Grand Island.

John David born September 30, 1962 is stationed at San Diego, California in the U.S. Navy on the U.S.S. Cushing.

Lisa Marie born February 15, 1964. Julie Ann born November 25, 1966. Denise Lynn born September 21, 1967. Charles Dean born May 7, 1971, Vicki Lynn born November 24, 1972. *Written by Catherine Mary Cave English.*

EARLE & ALMA CAVENDER

Born at Fremont, Nebraska, June 13, Earle was the son of Frank and Elva Shoemaker Cavender. Frank Cavender was born near Marysville, Missouri, August 14, 1859 and Elva born in Iowa in 1869.

Earle was educated in Fremont schools and took training as a mechanic in the Sweeney Auto School in Kansas City. In 1921 he came to Chapman and was employed as a mechanic in the garage. He and Alma Bove were married on November 24 at Council Bluffs, Iowa. Alma was native and raised in the Chapman community. Mr. Cavender was employed at several locations in auto mechanics and tire work.

Later they moved to Ainsworth to farm and ranch, remaining there for about eight years. This was followed by another eight year residence near Mt. Ayr, Iowa, and seven years at Exira, Iowa.

In 1951, Cavenders moved back to Merrick County and farmed north of Central City until 1966 when the farm was sold to Charles Schank. Because of ill health, they retired at this time and are presently living in Central City. *Submitted by Earle Cavender*

LUTHER & DORIS CHARRON



Luther and Doris Charron

Luther William Charron was born September 29, 1897, in Merrick County, Nebraska, on a farm 4 miles east and 3½ north of Palmer. The family moved to Omaha for a time, then back to Palmer where his father and Uncle George printed a newspaper.

It was in Palmer where Lew began his schooling. When he was 9 years old, the family moved to a sod house 3½ miles east of Palmer where his father helped his grandfather, Max Charron, Sr., with his farming.

The family lived in several places in the Archer and Fairview community until 1920, when his father sold out and moved to Omaha.

Lew stayed in Merrick County, for at the age of 16 he started working out. He worked for Jack Kyes and several other farmers in the area. When he was 21, he started farming for himself. After three years and "tired of batching", he sold out and traveled around working in the Kansas wheat fields and threshing crews. In the fall he picked corn by hand, and claimed to have shucked 100 bushels a day and over 6 thousand in a season.

In January of 1923, he had a severe seige of influenza. After recuperating with his family in

Omaha, he began working there in a tire factory.

On July 4, 1923 married Doris Clark. Doris I. Clark was born August 20, 1901, to Frank and Vida Clark on the old family homestead in Merrick County. She attended District #38 school and Nebraska Central College. She taught school for several years in the rural schools of Merrick County.

Lew and Doris lived in Omaha until November, but tiring of the city life came back to Merrick county to help with the corn harvest.

In the spring of 1924, they moved to the John Desch farm, 1 mile west and two and one fourth north of Central City. They started farming with two horses, two cows, two sows, a sulky plow, walking cultivator, disk, and a single-row corn planter.

Max was born in 1924, and Harold in 1926. In 1929 they bought a 400-acre ranch ten miles northeast of Spalding. Kenneth was born there in 1933. They stayed there six years of the "dry 30's." They decided to move back to the Desch place in 1935.

Lew bought his first tractor in 1936. It was a Wallace, and took lots of repair to keep it running. Kathryn was born in 1938.

In 1944, they bought the place north of them and moved there in 1945. They lived happily there until their deaths; Lew in 1977 and Doris in 1979.

Max lived in Everett, Washington, and died in 1970. Harold and family live near Ravenna. Kathryn Charron Schick lives north of Curtis. Kenneth and family live on and operate the 640 acres Lew and Doris accumulated.

Lew may best be remembered for his hard work and his love for the land.

Doris may be remembered for her concern for the community and the people around her. *Submitted by Kenneth Charron*

RANDALL CHINN FAMILY

My husband, Randall (called Randy), and I reside in Columbus, Nebraska, but are both former Merrick County residents. I am the former Gay Beck (A portion of my early life is given in the Dale Beck family history in this book).

Randy is the son of Mrs. Floyd Frizell of Silver Creek. Randy was born January 18, 1948, to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Chinn in Idaho Falls, Idaho. His mother, Irene Thurstonson, was born and raised in Silver Creek. Randy's dad served in the army in the 2nd Infantry Division of the Korean War. After he died while a prisoner of war, Irene returned to Silver Creek to raise her two small sons, Rodney and Randy.

Randy graduated from Silver Creek in 1966. He had enthusiastically participated in football and basketball. Randy has been an avid hunter for many years and now shares his hobby with our son, Todd. We always enjoy the meals that are furnished by their efforts.

While still in high school, Randy was a member of the Silver Creek Fire Department and also helped with ambulance calls. He is now employed as a fireman and ambulance attendant with the Columbus Fire Department. On some of his time off, he works for Henke Cement.

My favorite hobby during my growing-up years was horseback riding. I loved to ride for my own pleasure as well as participating in horse shows (especially barrelracing events).



Randall Chinn Family

I graduated from the eighth grade at Clarks, and from the twelfth grade at Silver Creek. Some highlights of my school years include being a cheerleader, playing volleyball, and attending Girls State.

We were married in 1968 at the Silver Creek United Methodist Church, and lived in that town until 1970 when we moved to our present home. At this time, I am employed at Becton Dickinson, a manufacturer of medical supplies.

We have two children. Todd Allen, a sixth grade student at Field School was born March 21, 1969. Becky Sue was born August 11, 1975 and is in kindergarten at the same school.

We are members of the Columbus Methodist Church. *by Gay Chinn*

FRANK CHRISP FAMILY

The year was 1921 and Frank Chrisp and Ruby McCollister were both seniors at Central City High School. They graduated in May 1922 and Ruby went on to Kearney State College and later was a teacher at District #50 in Merrick County.

While Ruby boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Gus Regelean, Frank would ride his bicycle out to "call." They were married May 27, 1924 and lived near Central City on the College Section.

Frank was a cobbler and had a shop in Central City. Coggie's Tire and Battery was next to his shop, Floyd Moore's Feed Store was across the street and later Cecil Wilson's Independent Club was next door. The Ratcliff Cafe was on the corner west.

William and Bina Chrisp were Frank's parents. They originally came from Iowa to Custer County, near Broken Bow, later to Chapman in Merrick County and then on to Central City. They had retired from farming and ranching but in 1930 they went back to Custer County where they had to foreclose one of their ranches and consequently went back to ranching again.

Ruby's family, Milton and Alta McCollister moved from Goehner in Seward County to Central City in 1920 where Milton was a Raleigh salesman and later was custodian at the Merrick County Court House.

Frank and Ruby had three children; Alice (Mrs. Earl Brandes), Lola (Mrs. Ken Ross), and David who married Arlene Treon and now live in Littleton, Colorado.

Fishing outings on the Loup River were some of the fun times for the family. Everyone, Frank, Ruby, sisters, friends, kids and the neighbor's kids would pile into the Model A and take off for overnight fishing. Supper was hamburgers and fried potatoes over the campfire, sliced tomatoes, oatmeal cookies and a sour cream chocolate cake of which Ruby made hundreds through the years. There were probably lots of other things to eat but those campfire potatoes and that chocolate cake stand out in our memories.

One night was an unforgetable experience. It was windy and rather stormy when a big red bull came down to investigate our fire. The first thing we knew he was snorting and pawing the ground which created a stampede of men, women and children to the Model A. We didn't sleep too well that night but that cherry pie at midnight was an experience.

Frank's grandchildren always sat spell-bound while Grandad told stories of the time when he was twelve and in St. Louis for therapy after he had polio or when he helped with cattle drives on the ranch in Custer County. He loved a good "discussion" and family gatherings were always lively.

In later years Frank sold his shoe repair shop and had a dairy and later a farming operation with his son, David. When David and his family moved to Colorado Frank and Ruby did the irrigating and farm work till they retired in 1966 and moved into Central City.

On January 30, 1969 Frank died of a heart attack after a short illness. Ruby now lives in Bader's Westside Villa and enjoys her friends, three children, nine grandchildren and at this time there are ten great-grandchildren. *Submitted by Alice Brandes*

CARROLL & LaVERNE CHRISTENSEN

Carroll Christensen was born to Louis and Anna Christensen on 24 September 1910, in Fremont, Nebraska. He moved to Central City when he was nine years old. He attended District #18 and Gardner School.

Growing up Carroll helped his father farm, worked a summer and fall with the construction of Highway 92, and hired out to other farmers.

In the fall of 1928 Carroll was hired by Earl McHargue to cut silage to fill the silos. The loads of corn bundles were unloaded by hand into the silage cutter and powered by a big steam engine. This is when LaVerne McHargue first met Carroll for she also helped work on her father's farm.

Carroll and LaVerne were married 3 March 1936. They farmed and fed cattle on the Earl McHargue farm for fourteen years (this farm was across the road from District #13 the school Dr. Greving moved to town for a dental clinic). In 1946 they purchased the Herman John farm which is northwest of Central City. It took the two of them many years of hard work and determination with set backs and accomplishments to make the farm grow. This farm is now Christensen Cattle and Trucking Company Inc. Carroll is President of the corporation and purchases all the cattle and order buys for other cattle feeders. In 1962 they moved to town, but he remains active in the operation of the business.

Carroll and LaVerne had three children; Alan Dean, born 16 February 1940, Sharolyn Kay, born 27 November 1942, Barbara Jane, born 14 October 1947.

Alan Dean married Ramona J. Munn in 1958. She is the daughter of Elbert and Gladys Munn of Central City. Dean is Vice President of Christensen Cattle and Trucking Company. He and his family operate the Central City Boxing Club. Their sons have won many boxing titles and are ranked nationally. Their children are; Kim Ranee born 12 February 1959, Tim Alan born 26 Mary 1960 (who married Ann Ranee Campbell daughter of Dale and Twila Campbell of Central City), Kay Lynn born 24 September 1961, Terry Dean born 25 June 1963, and Karla Rae born 1 February 1965.

Sharolyn Kay married Ivan E. Nelson of Omaha 20 April 1968. He is the son of Fred and Mabel Nelson of Blair, Nebraska. They live in Lakewood, Colorado. Their children are; Lyle Lee born 9 February 1969, and Tiana Lynn born 8 Novem6er 1972.

Barbara Jane married Dale Zikmund 20 June 1970. He is the son of Dr. E.T. Zikmund and Jannan Rowan. They live in Central City and their children are; Brett Patrick born 30 November 1971, and Danelle Dawn born 10 May 1975. *Submitted by Carroll and LaVerne Christensen*

LOUIS & ANNA CHRISTENSEN

Louis Christensen was born 17 July 1886 in Fremont, Nebraska. He married Anna Larson 6 February 1908. She was born 28 June 1883. They were the parents of three boys; Carroll H., born 24 September 1910 (who married LaVerne McHargue of Central City), Dale L., born 15 May 1915 (who married Mary Jane Moore of Central City), Robert L., born 27 December 1919 (who married Ester Engel of Grand Island).

Louis and Anna moved to Central City in February 1919 to live on a 240 acre farm that they had purchased the previous year. This farm was located northwest of town. Their worldly possessions consisting of six cows, six or eight horses, chickens in aerated coops, machinery, hay, straw, furniture etc. arrived in three railroad boxcars.

This farm (presently the Ken Mesner farm) was purchased for $100 an acre. In those days there was no irrigation such as now, so the farmers were largely dependent on the elements. The crops dried out completely in the years of 1933 and 1934. These were the "lean years" in farming circles and were customarily called "the dirty thirties." They were very bad.

In the mid-fifties they purchased forth-nine acres one mile north of Central City. By this time they were semi-retired. This home offered a great deal of happiness for them. There was always coffee in the

pot for their relatives and friends. Anna lived there until November 1974 then moved to Merrick Manor.

Louis passed away 23 December 1969 and Anna passed away 15 June 1975. *Submitted by Carroll and LaVerne Christensen*

BYARD HAMILTON CHURCH

Byard Hamilton Church, was born in or near Cincinnati, Ohio, June 23, 1856, son of Byard Hamilton Church and Nancy Pitzer.

"Ham" or "Hamilton", as he was known by many, grew up on a farm in Ohio and received only a meager education. He was needed to help at home with the farmwork most of the time. His parents were poor people and of mobile pioneer stock. Ham accompanied his parents, and other members of the family, when they left Ohio for the West in 1876; finally settling with them on a homestead near Leigh, Nebraska. June 1, 1878, Hamilton Church married Martha Menelva Marshall, at Columbus, Nebraska.

Martha, born October 11, 1860, at Centerville, Iowa, was a daughter of John W. Marshall and Landora LaRue. She came to Columbus, Nebraska, with her parents, after uniting with the Methodist Church at age 17.

The Churchs began married life in a sod house, on a forty acre farm he had purchased near Columbus; shortly thereafter, moving to a farm near Schuyler, belonging to his parents. During these years their children: Ella, Emma, Lennie May, LeRoy, Charles Henry, Herman Frank, and Dorsie Everett, were born. In the late 1890's, the family traveled by covered wagon to the territoy that later became the State of Oklahoma. Their son, Walter Theodore, was born September 28, 1897, in Indian Territory. Because of adverse conditions the family encountered, they returned to Nebraska; lived for a time near Schuyler, and in the Spring of 1901, settled on a farm they had purchased, northwest of Clarks. The youngest child, Rollin Leonard, was born there, April 26, 1901.

Ham Church was a great lover of, and took great pride in having fine stock — and especially loved a good riding horse. He was a horse breeder and horsetrader and his obituary notes that, "he was especially fond of horses and had not only many, but good horses." He continued to ride horseback, do his chores and look after his stock up to the time of his death. His horse was still saddled when he collapsed and died at the kitchen doorway of his home, near Clarks, February 7, 1933. He never had much in the world, but what he had was his own and, says his obituary, "While he had not made a great financial success in accumulating wealth, his policy was to owe no man anything."

Martha continued living on the homeplace, and died in the house completed for her in 1914, on March 2, 1937. Her obituary noted that, "For her there was never a more delightful occasion, than to have all of her children and their families at home for a visit and to enjoy their presence at the family table." Ham and Martha were the parents of ten children, two dying in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Church; daughter, Lennie (Mrs. "Gus" Botker); sons, LeRoy, Herman, Dorsie and Walter; as well as other family members, are buried at Pierce Chapel Cemetery, northwest of Clarks. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*



Byard and Martha Marshall Church — 1901

LeROY CHURCH

LeRoy Church, was born near Schuyler, Nebraska, January 31, 1884, one of ten children; son of Bryard Hamilton (1856-1933) and Martha Menelva (Marshall) Church (1860-1937).

"Roy" came from a family who had followed the fringes of the Western Frontier for several generations. Like his Father, he had little formal education; attending school through the fourth grade. He developed a knack for storytelling and trading and would fight for what he thought was right if the instance called for it. In the late 1890's he journeyed by covered wagon, with his parents, to the wild territory that later became the State of Oklahoma; where the family spent about a year. A brother, Walter, was born there, September 28, 1897. On this trip, Roy and a younger brother, Charlie, drove the stock; which is thought to have included about eighteen head of horses. Roy often related his experiences there, and others, and those of other members of the family; events that were oftentimes somewhat colorful and very much in the tradition of the "Old West." The family did return to Nebraska, and in the Spring of 1901, settled on a farm northwest of Clarks.



LeRoy Church and Mabel Branting — 1909

January 25, 1909, Roy married Mabel Albertina Branting; born June 30, 1890, in Polk County, Nebraska, daughter of Nels Peter Hugo (1863-1917) and Anna (Wallin) Branting (1869-1902), natives of Sweden. Mabel grew up in Polk County, where she attended school until her mother's death, when, being the older of two girls and four boys, she assumed many of the family responsibilities. Mabel did a fair amount of sewing, and her daughter, Violet, recalled that she was precise, did craft work, and could draw.

The Churchs lived on the Junkin Farm, northwest of Clarks, after their marriage. Roy later bought a place on the Platte River, at the east end of Prairie Island and with the help of his Dad and several brothers, drove his stock there. That day a calf had to be butchered, after Roy roped the critter, breaking its neck. About 1919, the family moved to Prairie Island, where they raised hay and livestock, and did some farming. The Churchs held barn dances there, and, for several years, small, local rodeos. Over the years Roy also did custom haywork.

Hardtimes and falling prices eventually made it impossible to hold onto the place on the River. The Churchs lived for about a year in Clarks, until about the summer of 1940, when they moved to eighty acres Roy had purchased, northwest of Silver Creek, where he died, March 22, 1949. After Roy's death, Mabel lived a short time in Polk, then moved to Central City; and from there to Falls City, Nebraska, in 1954. Roy and Mabel had seven children: Leonard, Russell, Cecil, Wilbur, Violet (Mrs. Louis Willits), Nona (Mrs. Victor Hoffer), and Iola "Babe" (Mrs. William Moore).

Mabel married Morris M. "Mike" Grady, July 9, 1955. They made their home in Falls City, where Mike died, February 5, 1972. Mabel died at the Community Hospital in Falls City, September 16, 1972. She was in failing health for about a year before her death, and was hospitalized from August 14, after fracturing her left hip.

Mabel, Roy, his parents, son Cecil, and a number of other members of the Byard Hamilton Church Family, are buried at Pierce Chapel Cemetery, northwest of Clarks. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

LEONARD RICHARD CHURCH

Leonard Richard Church, oldest child of LeRoy and Mabel (Branting) Church, was born on the Junkin Farm, northwest of Clarks, Nebraska, March 13, 1910; where his folks raised livestock and farmed.

In the Spring of 1919, the family moved to the east end of Prairie Island, where his dad raised cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, and hay and did some farming. The east side of this place was bordered by nearly a mile of Platte River, offering abundant game and fishing. Leonard and 3 brothers, became avid hunters and better than average marksmen. One brother, Cecil, was killed in a hunting accident on the River, in 1935.

Leonard attended District #25, then District #22, graduating there from the eighth grade. He began attending high school and traveled there by horseback. One frosty morning his horse shied on the mile bridge, south of Clarks, and fell on his foot; breaking several bones. His formal education there ended.

December 7, 1929, Leonard was married to Marjorie Elizabeth Key, by Judge Norton, at Osceola, Nebraska. Leonard later recalled that he had about $2.00 in his pocket, no job, and no place to go, after purchasing the marriage license.

Marjorie, was born southwest of Clarks, February 16, 1912, on the farm her Grandpa Key had purchased in 1881, the daughter of "Will" and Meta (Kokjer) Key, who were farming the old home place. In 1919, her father became quite ill; since there were no boys in the family, and Marjorie was the older of 2 girls, she shouldered much of the work load for the next few years. During this time, she milked two cows, fed two horses and three mules, took care of about 100 head of hogs and chopped wood. In the summer months she raked, swept and helped stack hay and shocked oats and wheat in the fields.

Marjorie attended school in Clarks, and played on the Clarks Girls Basketball Team; she played baseball, pole vaulted, and "threw the disc." As a member of the Campfire Girls she received a special award for skinning a cow.

After their marriage, Leonard worked as a farmhand on the Key Farm and then for his Uncle Art Branting. April 8, 1931, he began a career on the Union Pacific Railroad, on the Clarks Section, for $2.80 a day; later working at Havens, Central City, Grand Island and Chapman; and for short periods at Hershey, in 1942, and Buda, in 1946. In 1941, he



Leonard R. Church Family — 1977
L-r — Patricia, Marjorie, Robert, Leonard, Shirley.

took the Foreman's Examination, and in 1942, he was assigned a gang in Lincoln. He was foreman of the Central City Section when he transferred to the Elm Creek, Nebraska Section, as foreman, in November, 1959; where the Churchs have since made their home.

Mr. Church ceased active employment on the Union Pacific in December, 1970, and his retirement, because of eye cataract disability, became official in 1971. The Churchs have spent much of their retirement improving their property in Elm Creek. They have three children: Robert, Shirley and Patricia. *Compiled and written by their grandson, Thomas E. Kelly*

ROBERT L. CHURCH

Robert L. Church, d/o/b; May 16, 1930, son of Leonard and Marjorie Church

The Church families are longtime residents of Merrick County. Several generations have lived there, many still do. As times change and our society has become more transit, many members of the family have left and now live many miles from their birthplace and family.

Such is the case with this limb of the Church family. Upon graduation from Clarks High School, the first move was to the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Two of the most important happenings of my life took place here. First, there was a marriage to Marjory (who grew up in Valley County) and second was my graduation from the University.

After graduation from the University, I spent two years in the Armed Services, one year in Oklahoma at Fort Sill and another year at Fort Sam Houston, in San Antonio, Texas. After discharge from the Army, we moved north to the Chicago suburbs and still live in that area.

Life in the big city is much more complicated than it was in the small towns of Merrick County. A highlight, or one of them, of growing up in a small town, was Saturday night. The farmers brought their milk to town and did their weekly shopping. Main Street was active with family and friends. Everybody knew everybody. The band concert was enjoyed, and maybe there was a movie to attend. Big city living is anything but this. We live in an urban area west of Chicago, in DuPage County, in a village of approximately 25,000. For the past twenty-six years I have been associated with Campbell Soup Company at their Chicago plant. My responsibilities have been in the area of accounting.

In 1963 the third most important event was when our family became three with the additional family member being a daughter, Jeanne. She is now a Senior at the local high school and is hoping to be able to attend college at my alma mater, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Merrick County and Nebraska are still important in our lives because that is where our family still lives and we spend vacations traveling back to Nebraska to be with them. *Submitted by Robert L. Church*

SHIRLEY ANN CHURCH

Shirley Ann Church, was born in a small railroad bunkhouse, which was located on the south side of the tracks, on the west edge of Clarks, November 8, 1931, daughter of Leonard and Marjorie (Key) Church. She began school in Central City, thence to Grand Island, back to Central City, Chapman and then Clarks where she graduated as class salutatorian from high school in 1949.

For Shirley, her parents, brother, Bob and sister, Pat, life in the 1930's was a matter of living from payday to payday and enduring the hardships of poverty, which were compounded by periods when Mr. Church would be laid-off his regular job on the railroad. During one such period, in the Spring of 1933, the family moved to the Junkin Place, where Leonard farmed with his Dad that summer for shares. The family existed on boiled pigweed and cottage cheese and the money from the cream they sold from an old Guernsey cow Leonard milked. Parched wheat was used for breakfast food and to make coffee with.

Shirley's mother recalled that during these years she made the girls underclothes from 10 lb. sugar sacks and used old dresses and shirts to make their



Rex and Shirley Kelly Family — 1978
Back l-r — John, James, Louise Ann, Thomas. **Front l-r** — Shirley, Rex, Daniel.

dresses. She said that the girls "never had boughten coats until the 9th grade." She would rip up old coats, wash them, and use the inner side of the material from the old one as the outside of the new one. Marjorie used old suit pants to make Bob's overalls and made Leonard a zipper jacket out of an old overcoat. During the early '30's payday was cause for a special treat — "the payday meal" which consisted of porkchops and pineapple.

Shirley's Dad began work on the Central City section in the Fall of 1935 and they lived there in an old bunkhouse. Baths were taken in a washtub in water heated on an old cookstove. The washing was done by hand on a board. Once in awhile, after buying groceries, the family would have the 10¢ it took to go to the movies.

Shirley attended Kearney State College for one year and there met Rex J. Kelly. They were married at St. Michael's, in Central City, on July 14, 1951, and began married life in Omaha; where their firstborn, Dennis, died in infancy. In 1952, they moved to Kearney, where their five children, Thomas, Louise, James, John and Daniel, were born. In 1967, the family moved to Holdrege, where Mr. Kelly became administrator of the new hospital, which was in its final stages of construction. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly still reside in Holdrege, where Mrs. Kelly has been active as a 4-H leader, in band mothers and hospital service league. Mrs. Kelly enjoyed the weekly care of her Grandmother Key after she took up residence at the Methodist Home in Holdrege; undertaking small errands her Grandmother was unable to run and such things as fixing her hair as her health began to fail in the several months before her death. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

PATRICIA LOU CHURCH

Patricia Lou Church, was born May 28, 1933, at 1:30 in the afternoon, 3½ miles southwest of Clarks, Nebraska, on the farm her Great Grandfather, Thomas Key, had purchased, in March, 1881. "Pat" was the youngest, in a family of three children, the daughter of Leonard and Marjorie (Key) Church. As a girl, she moved to, and lived with the family at: Clarks, Central City, Grand Island, Central City, and Chapman. From Chapman the family returned to Clarks, where Pat graduated from high school, in 1951. Her parents returned to Central City, in March, 1951, where her dad, a U.P. Railroad employee, became foreman on that section of the Union Pacific Railroad. She completed her high school education in Clarks by driving from Central City, or staying with her Grandmother Key, in Clarks. In the high school band, Pat was drum major 4 years, and her sister, Shirley, played the glockenspiel; both were in the chorus. During high school, Pat worked as an operator, at the Clarks Telephone Office (as did her sister, Shirley); sometimes working all night, from 10:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m. Pat enjoyed the outdoors. She played summer softball; worked two summers detasseling corn; one year of that as a work foreman.

After high school graduation, Pat worked as a bookkeeper's assistant, for Omaha Cold Storage, in Central City. June 28, 1953, Patricia Church was united in marriage to Maynard H. Anderson, at the Congregational Church, in Clarks, Nebraska. Maynard, of Stromsburg, Nebraska, was the son of Herb and Mae Anderson. Pat and Maynard lived in Wichita, Kansas, where Maynard was stationed in the Air Force. At Wichita, Pat worked for Coleman Heating and Air Conditioning, in the office. Maynard's enlistment was up in December, 1955, but he continued his involvement in aviation. In June, 1956, they moved to Champaign, Illinois, and to Dexter, Missouri, in 1959. They returned to Illinois, in April, 1960, settling at Summit, a suburb of Chicago, and Maynard became a pilot for Ozark Air Lines. In 1963, they moved to Elk Grove Village, another Chicago suburb. Their five children were all born in the Chicago, Illinois area: Janice Lee, born May 24, 1960, at Hinsdale, died at birth, and was buried at Glen Ellyn, Illinois; Kathryn Lynn, born September 2, 1962, at LaGrange; Ross William, born April 14, 1964, at Arlington Hts., died April 21, 1964, buried at Arlington Hts.; Cyd Marie, born August 25, 1965, at Arlington Hts.; Kristen Sue, born July 1, 1967, at Arlington Hts.



Patricia Lou Church — 1951

Pat began part-time work, December 7, 1971, for Sears, in a Chicago suburb, at the large Woodfield Shopping Center. She worked in various departments, and later moved into office personnel, mostly conducting job interviews. March 19, 1981, Pat received a promotion to a newly formed Central Personnel Department, at the Sears Chicago Group Office, at Skokie; where she is presently employed. Pat lives in Elk Grove Village; daughter, Kathy, attends Western University, at Macomb, Illinois, Cyd and Kristen attend school, in Elk Grove. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

RUSSELL EDISON CHURCH

Russell Edison Church, was born February 8, 1912, on the Junkin Farm, northwest of Clarks, Nebraska; son of LeRoy and Mabel (Branting) Church. About 1919, he moved with his parents, older brother, Leonard, and baby brother, Cecil, to a place on Prairie Island his dad had purchased, in 1915, from Russ' Grandpa "Pete" Branting. "Russ" or "Rusty", began school northwest of

Clarks, at District #25; then attended District #22, on Prairie Island.

Russell Church married Laura Brings, at York, Nebraska, July 6, 1938. Laura was the daughter of Elmer Theodore Brings and Hattie Virginia Grace; who were married January 31, 1901; came to Merrick County, Nebraska, in 1908, and lived ¼ mile east of the District #24 Schoolhouse. Laura had two brothers, Laurence and Paul. She attended District #24, and high school at Juniata, Nebraska and Central City.

Russ began work on the Union Pacific Railroad, March 10, 1936. Like his two brothers, Leonard and Wilbur, the railroad was his career. He was employed on the U.P. for 38 years, as a sectionman, Section Foreman and General Foreman. His two sons, Gary and Dennis, are employees of the Union Pacific. In 1955, Russ transfered, as Foreman of the Grand Island Section, to Sunol, Nebraska; moving from Central City. From September 7, 1965, until 1970, Russ worked on most of their system in the Western United States; working as General Foreman on system tie and ballast gang and then as tie inspector: in Montana, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Nevada, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa. In 1970, he returned to Sunol, and took his section back, as Section Foreman; retiring in July, 1974.

Russ and Laura settled in Central City after their marriage; living there until moving to Sunol in 1955; which has been their home since that time. They enjoy their family, hunting and fishing.

The Churchs have 3 children, all born in Merrick County. Marlene, the oldest, married Ted Wurl, in 1958. They have two sons: Scott and Steve. Ted works for Public Service. The Wurl's live in Sterling, Colorado.

Gary, the oldest son, married Sharon Fenske, in 1968. They have four children: Christopher, Patrick, Rustyn and Debbie. Gary and his family live in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he is employed as an engineer, for the Union Pacific Railroad.

Dennis, the youngest, married Patricia Bryant, in 1968. They have two sons: Paul and Jared. The Dennis Churchs also live in Cheyenne; where he works as a brakeman and conductor for the Union Pacific.

Laura writes:

"We remember the good times we used to have on Saturday nights in Central City . . . Our kids still talk about those Sat. nights even though they were young . . . they'd go to the show with their school friends & then find us somewhere — we'd usually do all our shopping & the stores seemed to stay open till midnight . . . Think they all closed around 11 though then we'd all go to someone's house & have lunch & visit . . . . . Don't have stores open on Sat. nights any more."

Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly



Sons of LeRoy Church — mid 1920's
L-r — Leonard, Russ, Web, Cecil — Prairie Island.

WILBUR LYLE CHURCH

Wilbur Lyle Church, was born March 22, 1920, on Prairie Island, Merrick County, Nebraska, son of LeRoy and Mabel (Branting) Church. He attended school at District #22, and completed the 10th grade, in Clarks. During the 1930's, "Web", as he is best known, worked with the C.C.C. Web sent his folks $21.00 of his monthly check; keeping $7.00 for "spending money." He worked on the extra-gang, for the Union Pacific Railroad, beginning in 1938;



Web, Russ, Leonard Church — 1977
Lake McConaughy

after "convincing" them he was old enough.

Prior to the Pearl Harbor bombing, Web enlisted in the Air Force, in November, 1941. He was preparing for Christmas leave when Pearl Harbor was bombed and consequently passed 4 Christmases away from home; though he returned home on 2 other leaves. Web took his basic training at St. Louis, Missouri, and was with the basic training squadron in the U.S., in California, Texas and Richmond, Virginia, where he left for England, in 1943. He advanced from buck private to staff sargent in 9 months. In England, Web was with the 8th Air Force, and recalls "visits" by German V2 rockets. Web subsequently transfered to the 9th Air Force; going to France, Belgium and Germany. He returned from Europe, in November, 1945; was honorably discharged at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, and that same month, went to work as a signal helper on the U.P.R.R., in their signal department.

June 23, 1946, Web Church married Erma Mae Madison, at the Clarks Congregational Parsonage, in Clarks, Nebraska. Erma, born at Fairmont, Nebraska, December 9, 1926, daughter of George and Ida (Ebbeka) Madison, came with her parents to Central City, as a girl, and settled with them on a farm about 5 miles northwest of Central City.

From 1945-1949, Web worked on signal gangs from Omaha to Cheyenne; often he and Erma followed the work, living in a trailer house. For several months in 1949, Web was signal maintainer at Pine Bluffs, Wyoming, and then in 1950, 1951, 1952, at Columbus, Nebraska; after which the family came to Central City; thence to Chappell, Nebraska; remained there until returning to Central City, in 1960, where they have since made their home. Web is presently carrier maintainer and covers the territory from Duncan (milepost 96) to west of Central City (milepost 127). He plans to retire from the U.P. Railroad, June 15, 1981.

At Central City, Web served on the City Council from 1964-1977; Erma worked at Parkview (Bethesda Care Center) from 1969-1975, and now works at Litzenberg Memorial Hospital in long-term; working as a nurse aid (C.S.M.), since November, 1973. The Churchs have 4 children, all born in Central City. Clyde, born 1947; married Marilyn Randall; has sons: Adam (deceased), Jason and Jared; is a police officer, in Grand Island. Gene, born 1949; married Lynne Williams; is a carpenter; lives in Grand Island. Dale, born 1953; married Barbara Mace; has sons: Wade and Todd; works at Atlantic Trailer Factory; lives in Clarks. Christine, born 1964; attends Central City High School. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

VIOLET CHURCH

Violet Church, was born November 12, 1922, on a farm on Prairie Island in Merrick County, daughter of LeRoy and Mabel Church. She attended grade school on Prairie Island and two years of high school at Clarks. Due to severe winter conditions, she began her Junior year at Hordville, and completed the year in Central City; staying there with her brother, Russell, and his wife, Laura. During the summer of that year her folks moved to a farm they purchased north of Silver Creek, Nebraska. With a school bus route past their farm she went home that fall; graduating in 1941 at Silver Creek.

After graduation Violet worked in a restaurant in Central City for about a year, subsequently marrying Louis Willits of Polk, Nebraska, March 1, 1942.



Louis and Violet Church Willits

Louis graduated from Morton Aircraft School in Omaha about the last of March and was assigned a job with Curtiss Wright Airplane Factory in Buffalo, New York. Enroute to Buffalo their car broke down in Erie, Pennsylvania. It couldn't be fixed for two weeks, so they went on by bus. Arriving in Buffalo at night they told the taxi driver to take them to a fairly resonable hotel. Louis had to report for work next morning — about 30 miles away — and left early by bus. After checking in at work he found he didn't have to stay all day; ready to come home, he realized he had no idea where he had left Violet, and decided to take a taxi, thinking maybe the driver could help him find the hotel. The driver thought he might know the one; if not, he would take Louis to the police station and start calling hotels. They drove to that hotel, but Louis knew that wasn't it. As they came around the block, on the way to the police station, they came by the other side of that hotel and Louis recognized the swinging doors — it *was* the place. So at last a mighty scared young man lost in a big city had finally found his new bride.

A son, LeRoy, was born in Buffalo, June 8, 1943, and a daughter, Cheryl, May 8, 1945. They moved back to Clarks in July, 1945. Louis worked for the Union Pacific Railroad until they got established farming. They lived on a rented farm in Polk County, 2 years, until they bought their own farm in Nance County. In 1951 they sold their farm and moved to Central City. Louis worked for a fertilizer plant in Grand Island. They later bought a home and moved there. In 1953 Louis was transferred to Falls City, Nebraska to manage a new fertilizer plant there. The family moved there in July, 1953.

October 17, 1953 a daughter, Susan, was born. Falls City has remained their home. Louis still works at the fertilizer plant. Violet has been a bookkeeper and clerk in the variety store; working there the past 10 years. The Willits' children are all married and each have children — 8 grandchildren in all. *Submitted by Mrs. Louis (Violet Church) Willits and Thomas E. Kelly*

NONA LaVONNE CHURCH

Nona LaVonne Church, was born at the family farm, on Prairie Island, south of Clarks, Nebraska, on December 31, 1931, daughter of LeRoy and Mabel (Branting) Church. Nona is next to the youngest of a family of seven.

Nona attended country school on Prairie Island until second grade, when she moved with her family to Silver Creek, Nebraska. (Note: Nona's dad purchased the place on Prairie Island from her grandpa (Pete Branting) in 1915; moved his family there shortly after the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, and sold the place in 1939 — Thomas E. Kelly). Nona continued her education through the twelfth grade, at Silver Creek. At Silver Creek, she rode the school bus to school. It had board seats along the sides of the inside of the bus and heat was furnished by an oil heater bolted to the floor in the back of the bus.

On December 24th, 1949, Nona Church married Victor Van Hoffer, of Clarks, at Silver Creek, Nebraska. Victor was born March 22, 1929, to Van James and Viola (Wilcox) Hoffer, at Clarks,

Nebraska, the youngest of six children. He attended school, at a country school, south of Clarks, and also in Clarks.

Victor and Nona Hoffer lived in the Clarks area for most of 30 years of marriage; nineteen of those on a farm, on Prairie Island, where their two sons were born: Allen, June 31, 1956 and Michael, March 24, 1958. Dr. Robert Douglas delivered Victor, Nona and also their two sons.

In September of 1980, Vic and Nona sold their home in Clarks and purchased a home in Hordville, Nebraska, where Victor works at the Farmer's Cooperative Elevator. Nona works at the Litzenberg Memorial Hospital in Long Term Care. *Submitted by Mrs. Vic (Nona Church) Hoffer*



Mr. and Mrs. Roy Church — three daughters — **L-r** — Babe, Nona, Violet.

IOLA "BABE" CHURCH

Iola "Babe" Church, of Central City, Nebraska, and Bill Moore, of Greeley, Nebraska, were united in marriage at Columbus, Nebraska in 1952. We (Babe and Bill) lived at Grand Island, Nebraska the first year or so of our marriage, and then returned to Central City, where we spent about three or four years. It was during this time we had our two children: Mary Helen, who now lives here in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, with her husband, Kenneth Crowner, and two children, Richard Laverne, age 7, and Robin Marie, age 3; and Laura Lynn, who lives on a farm near Percival, Iowa, along with her husband, David Nelson, and son Christopher, age 7. So we have three lovely grandchildren and enjoy having Richard and Robin so close, here in Lake Havasu.

My husband and son-in-law, are both employed at Larson Equip. here and Mary works at the McCullough Plant; Richard attends school and Gramma Moore babysits with Robin. We have resided here for the past three years.

I spent my child-hood growing up on a small farm about three miles north of Silver Creek, Nebraska. I was about five years old when my father, LeRoy Church and mother, Mabel, and sister, Nona, moved there from Prairie Island, near Clarks, Nebraska. I loved the farm and we had a lot of fun growing up in spite of all the hard work that goes with country living. My grandchildren love to have me tell them all the stories of how it was back then. I and my sister, Nona, attended the public school in Silver Creek. She graduated from there, but due to my father's death, I and my mother had to move to Polk, Nebraska during my tenth grade year in high school and I finished my schooling in Central City, where we later bought a home and settled.

I, my husband and children moved from Central City to Wichita, Kansas, where we lived for about three years, and then to Falls City, Nebraska, where our children did most of their growing up. It was from Falls City, we moved to Arizona three years ago, mainly to get away from the cold weather. So here we are and love it. *Submitted by Mrs. William (Babe Church) Moore*



Bill and "Babe" Church Moore and daughters

HERMAN FRANK CHURCH

Herman Frank Church, was born August 29, 1891, at Schuyler, Nebraska, son of Byard Hamilton and Martha Menelva (Marshall) Church. About 1897, his parents journey by covered wagon to what later became the State of Oklahoma, remained a short time, then returned to Nebraska; settling in the Pleasant Hill neighborhood, northwest of Clarks, in 1901. Herman attended the Pleasant Hill School. His daughter, Florine, writes of some memories his teacher there had of him:

"Nearly as old as his teacher and very much larger, he could have given her plenty of trouble, but never once by word or deed, did he cause her a moments distress. She said he would live in her memory as the quiet friendly boy with the big brown eyes. The teacher was Mrs. Fern Beardsley."



Herman Church and Florence Branting — 1911

Herman married Florence Olivia Branting, June, 1911, at Fullerton, Nebraska. Florence, born in the Swede Home Neighborhood, Polk County, Nebraska, February 19, 1893, daughter of "Pete" and Anna (Wallin) Branting, attended school in Polk County, through the sixth grade. After their marriage, notes Herman's obituary, "they went to housekeeping" in Holt County, Nebraska, near Emmet; returning to Merrick County in 1913.

Prior to 1933, the family lived ten years on Pete Olson's farm, in Polk County. In 1933, Herman and his family moved to his folk's place, northwest of Clarks, farmed and cared for his mother, until her death, in 1937. The family then went to El Dorado, Kansas, and later to Wichita, where they operated a restaurant about two-three years, before returning to Central City.

At Central City, Herman worked at odd jobs, on W.P.A. projects, and kept a garden; Florence worked in cold storage; and their son, Englebert, on the railroad section gang. Those three checks "kept things going", recalled daughter, Florine. The Churchs were residents of Central City when Herman died in an Omaha hospital, January 17, 1944. Herman was buried at Pierce Chapel Cemetery and "will always be remembered as a good husband, father and obliging neighbor and friend, always willing to help whenever he was needed", writes Florine.

Herman and Florence had six children: Vera, who lived just a few days after birth, in 1913; Englebert, who married Patty Crawford of Central City, and passed away, May 3, 1950; Alma (Mrs. Richard Whittemore), Denver, Colorado; Florine (Mrs. Billie Hoffer), Ogallala, Nebraska; Eva (Mrs. Glen Riblett), Denver, Colorado; and Arlene (Mrs. Jesse Cole), Albert Lea, Minnesota. All of their children attended school in Merrick County; some of them at the same school (Pleasant Hill) as their father. Descended from this couple are: seven grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Englebert Church's baby, which died at birth; Ricky Whittemore, died January 5, 1979; Karen (Hoffer) Nichols, Denver, Colorado; Jim Hoffer, Garland, Texas; Jerry Riblett, Denver, Colorado; and Garrett Cole, Albert Lea, Minnesota; fourteen great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Florence resided in Central City until moving to Denver, Colorado, prior to March, 1949; where she has since remarried to James Scott, and made her home. *Compiled and Written by Thomas E. Kelly*

FLORINE CHURCH

Florine Church, daughter of Herman and Florence (Branting) Church, was born in Merrick County, Nebraska, May 2, 1920. She attended school at District #45, in Polk County, Nebraska, all eight years of her grade school; and attended the Polk, Pleasant Hill, and Clarks high schools.

During her childhood, which she recalls as being very happy, Florine says that she was "an outdoor girl" and spent alot of time with her dad. A highlight for her was taking him lunch every afternoon in the field, and she remembers how he always made her feel so special. She did a great deal of horseback riding, and it was her job to herd the cattle along the roadsides. While doing that, she would gather asparagus and pick mulberries for the family meals.

March 5, 1939, Florine was united in marriage to Billie Hoffer, of Clarks, Nebraska, in the Methodist Church, in Central City. Bill was born, September 10, 1916; grew up in Merrick County, and came from a farming background. Bill farmed several years after their marriage and also worked a couple of years at Vanicks Implement, in Silver Creek. In the Fall of 1955, the Hoffers moved to Denver, Colorado. Bill worked at factory steel work, in Commerce City. Florine writes that, while in Den-



Bill and Florine Church Hoffer
1981

ver, she worked 6½ years at the University of Colorado Medical Center, in the Finance Dept. and Mailroom; 2½ years for Wright and McGill, polishing and inspecting fishing reels; and two years working in the Loft of Lerner's Dept. Store, sizing and pulling distributions to be shipped to their other stores. After returning to Merrick County, Nebraska, in 1969, Florine worked three years at the Gambles Store in Central City and two years at the Bethesda Care Home. Bill went to work for John Deere Equipment, in Central City, in 1969, working on machinery setup, repairs and mechanics and also did some farming near Clarks. He retired in 1977, and shortly thereafter, Bill and Florine moved to Ogallala, Nebraska. They have spent much of their retirement at Lake McConaughy, where they have a trailerhouse and boat; enjoy fishing and family get-togethers. They enjoy visiting children, grandchildren, relatives and friends. Florine especially likes to spend time in Denver with her beloved mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoffer have two children: a daughter, Karen (Hoffer) Nichols, of Englewood, Colorado; a son, Jimmie Hoffer, Garland, Texas; six grandchildren: Todd, Terry and Tammy Nichols, of Englewood, Colorado; Kerry, Kimberly and Kelli Hoffer, of Garland, Texas. *Submitted by Mrs. Bill (Florine Church) Hoffer and Thomas E. Kelly*

DORSIE EVERETT CHURCH

Dorsie Everett Church, was born at Schuyler, Nebraska, June 3, 1895, son of Byard Hamilton and Martha Menelva (Marshall) Church. His twin brother died in infancy. When a small child, his parents traveled to the territory that later became the State of Oklahoma, a trip made by covered wagon. They remained there only a short time and returned to Schuyler. In 1901, his dad purchased the north half of the northwest quarter, and the north half of the northeast quarter, section 28, township 5, range 15, consisting of 160 acres located northwest of Clarks, Clarksville precinct, Merrick County, Nebraska, and the family located there.

November 18, 1914, Dorsie Church married Ada Spires, at Central City, Nebraska. Ada was born near Clarks, Nebraska, December 29, 1894, daughter of Frederic and Sarah (Pentelow) Spires. According to the 1900 Merrick County, Nebraska Census, Clarksville precinct, Frederic Spires was born in England, as were his parents, and he had come to the United States, in 1882; his wife, Sarah, was also born in England, as were her parents. Fred and Sarah Spires had five sons: Richard, Fred, Bob, Joe and Clyde; Ada was the only girl. Ada went to England as a child.



Dorsie Church and Ada Spires — 1914

Dorsie and Ada Church lived in Merrick County and on John Larson's farm, in Polk County, Nebraska, after their marriage. Their son, Burdette, recalled that his folks farmed until 1937, sold out in Polk County, and moved to Clarks. Burdette said his dad then worked on the Feehan Ranch and later did carpenter work with him about four or five years.

Mr. and Mrs. Dorsie Church had five children; three are deceased: George Everett Church — whose name was influenced by his Grandpa Church, who had a cousin, George Washington Church — born May 15, 1920, died July 28, 1921; Martha E. Church, born December 14, died December 15, 1921; and Richard E. Church, born September 23, died September 26, 1929. The surviving children are a son, Burdette H. Church, a carpenter, residing with his family at Clarks, where he has an acreage; and a daughter, Mildred (Mrs. Leonard McIntire) of Kearney. Dorsie and Ada were residents of Clarks at the time of Dorsie's death, September 12, 1969, at Osceola, Nebraska. He was the last surviving member of the B. H. Church family.

Ada continued to reside in Clarks until a couple of years ago, when she moved to the Bethesda home, in Central City. She still maintains her home in Clarks, however. One of Ada's greatest joys is a visit by a family member. Ada recalls, with great modesty, that her brothers were such good looking fellows, and that she was left out. She once had a runaway; resulting in a buggy pileup and an injury to her mouth, after striking the wagon wheel hub. Ada has taken great interest in the Church family and all her relatives and has compiled over 20 scrapbooks; containing cards, notes, letters, photographs, newspaper clippings and whatnot.

Dorsie Church; his children: George, Martha, and Richard; and a grandson, Judson McIntire, are buried at Pierce Chapel Cemetery, northwest of Clarks. *Compiled and Written by Thomas E. Kelly*

BURDETTE CHURCH

Burdette Hahn Church, was born January 13, 1923, son of Dorsie and Ada (Spires) Church, attended grade school at District #46 in Polk County, Nebraska.

The family moved to Clarks where he finished his schooling, graduating from High School in 1941. He worked for the Union Pacific Railroad 1941-43 at which time he was inducted into the Army. He was wounded in action July 7, 1944 on Siapan, discharged February 1945. Returning to railroad job he worked there till 1947 at which time he started the carpentry trade.

Lela (Vincent) Church, daughter of Clarence and Myrtle (Waggoner) Vincent, attended grade school years at District #43 in Polk County south of Stromsberg, Nebraska. She attended Benedict High School till 1938 when her family moved to Clarks, Nebraska where she graduated from High School in 1939. She took Post Graduate at Clarks, then attended Nebraska Central College in Central City, Nebraska. She taught at District #16, #5 and #27 in Merrick County.



Burdette and Lela Church

Burdette and Lela were married March 28, 1945. Five children were born to this union. Linda Lavonne, September 21, 1946; Janis Marie, September 4, 1948; Sandra Jean, April 15, 1952; Jerry Wayne, September 24, 1960; and Thomas Lee, January 6, 1962.

They live on the north edge of Clarks on an acreage formerly known as the Beardsley home. *Submitted by Lela Church*

WALTER THEODORE CHURCH



Walter Church and Marie Dickman — 1919

Walter Theodore Church, was born September 28, 1897, in what is now the State of Oklahoma, son of Byard Hamilton Church and Martha Menelva Marshall. Sometime between June, 1895, and prior to Walter's birth, his parents traveled, by covered wagon, to that territory which became Oklahoma. Other relatives apparently made this trip and relatives are known to have resided in the general area where the family settled; which is said to have been about forty miles south of Coffeyville. Family tradition says that Walter's mother wanted to go south, "where the peaches and pears preserved themselves on the trees." They had returned to Nebraska by June 12, 1900, when they appear on the Nebraska Census for Colfax County, in Schuyler precinct. This record indicates Walter had been born in Indian Territory (i.e. that part of Oklahoma). Shortly thereafter, Walter moved with his parents, to a farm his dad had purchased, northwest of Clarks, Nebraska. Walter was eighth, in a family of nine children; his younger brother, Rollin Leonard, was born at Clarks, in 1901. The older children were: Ella (Mrs. Oscar Lawrence), Emma (who died young), Lennie (Mrs. August J. Botker), LeRoy, Charles, Herman and Dorsie.

Walter Church married Marie Helen Dickman, November 6, 1919, at Central City, Nebraska. Marie was born August 14, 1900, daughter of Gehrt A. Dickman (born Holstein, Germany, September 19, 1851 — died April 27, 1923; buried at Grand Island, Nebraska) and Elizabeth Dorr. The Dickmans moved to a farm northwest of Clarks, Nebraska, in 1909.

Walter and Marie Church spent their entire married lives in or near Clarks; were engaged in farming; and the parents of sixteen children: Arnold, of Central City; Blanche (Mrs. Howard Shively), of Central City; Bernice (Mrs. Lyle Plumbtree), of Belgrade; Forrest, of Clarks, who

married Henrietta Greger; Milford, who died June 1, 1944, as a result of a truck accident, and is buried at Pierce Chapel; Melvin ("Jack"), of Clarks, who married Elva Schmid; Faye (Mrs. Tony Greger), of Central City; Betty (Mrs. Virgil Gulbrandson), of Stromsburg; Dean, of Clarks, who married Virginia Miller; Donna (Mrs. Eldon Reisener), of Aurora; Harold, of Clarks, who married June Scott; Erma (Mrs. James Miller), of Stromsburg; Sharon (Mrs. Art Lambert), of Geneva; Alice (Mrs. Jerry Faeh), of Central City; Twyla (Mrs. Don Kelly), of York; and Ron, of Central City, who married Linda Solomon. Descendants of this couple now number thirty-five grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

Walter Church died August 4, 1962, at the Osceola hospital, of a heart condition, and is buried at Pierce Chapel Cemetery. In June, 1966, Marie moved from their home in Polk County, to Clarks; where she now resides.

Bob Church, son of Jack and Elva Church, named his first son, Walter Church. Writing of this large family, Mrs. Jack Church notes, "they all are pretty much home bodies and closely knit." Home and family, that's kind of been the story of the Church family since anyone can remember. *Compiled and Written by Thomas E. Kelly*

JACK & ELVA CHURCH

Melvin (Jack) one of sixteen children born to Walter T. and Marie Dickman Church and Elva, one of five children of George M. and Delora Fox Schmid were married April 4, 1953 at Albion, Nebraska. At the time of their marriage, Jack was working for Steger Brothers north and east of Clarks and doing trucking for Marvin Clauff. Elva was teaching country school at Swede Home, Nebraska. Their first home was at Pollard's Motel in Clarks.

They began farming in Polk County in 1954, later moving to Merrick County where they farmed for three years before moving back to Polk County to the Newton Dexter farm where they now have resided for twenty one years.

In their early years of married life, Elva taught country school for a total of seven years and worked as a clerk for Wm. Douglas & Company for five years. In August, 1963 she began working as a teller-bookkeeper at the Bank of Clarks. In January of 1971, she was appointed Assistant Cashier and in 1975 was named Cashier.

After having several heart attacks prior to 1972, Jack entered Bryan Memorial Hospital in June and had open heart surgery, consisting of a triple by-pass.

Jack and Elva have two children, Carole and Robert. Carole was born September 4, 1953 and Robert was born October 8, 1954 at Central City, Nebraska. They both attended Clarks Public School and graduated from high school there. Robert was the first state wrestling champion from Clarks High School in 1972. They both were baptized and attended Sunday School at the Clarks United Methodist Church.

Carole graduated from Lincoln, Nebraska Joseph's College of Beauty in 1972. She worked as a beautician in Osceola and Clarks. On August 20, 1977 she married David D. Buller at the United Methodist Church in Clarks. They live north and east of Clarks and have a son Brian, born August 5, 1980. David works for Monte Williams.

Robert married Peggy Jo Peterson June 30, 1973. They were married at their present home in a yard ceremony on Prairie Island. They have two children. Walter, born December 4, 1973 and Michelle Jo, born April 25, 1977. Robert farms with his father and Peggy is a bookkeeper for Pollard Oil & Propane. *Submitted by Elva Church*



Jack and Elva Church Family



Frank J. Clark Family

Frank would probably best be remembered in the local and surrounding communities as manager of the Irish Town baseball team, along with the baseball diamond he maintained on his farm for many years. Later he managed Legion and other ball teams. He helped organize the first county Sunday baseball league, that continued for a number of years.

Frank and Vida Clark lived continuously on the family homestead except for one year when they decided to try homesteading a farm at Erickson, Nebraska. Considering it a mistake, they returned to Central City the same fall, where Frank worked in his father's meat market until spring when they returned to the farm and continued to live there the rest of their lives. *Submitted by Donald Y. Clark*

FRANK & VIDA CLARK

Frank J. Clark (1875-1952) was one of six children of David Y. and Lucy Perkins Clark, who in 1872 came to Merrick County from New York State to homestead a farm five miles southwest of Central City along the U. P. Railroad. The other children were Charles, Grace, Kate, Guy, and George. Frank and his sisters, Grace and Kate (Mrs. John Desch) continued to live in this area most of their lives.

Mr. and Mrs. David Y. Clark continued to farm the homestead, along with other accumulated property, until 1899 when he moved to Central City to operate a meat market and later a cement works.

Frank and George batched on the homestead for a year, when George decided to follow his brother Guy to Creighton University to become a doctor. Frank remained on the farm and married Vida I. Laub (1876-1963), whose parents, Jacob Laub and Loa Fishburn Laub, had also homesteaded a farm one half mile south and two and one fourth miles west of the Clark Homestead in 1872.

Later, after several years of failing health, the Jacob Laub family in 1884 moved to Chapman and, with his death in 1885, the family consisting of Jennie, Vida, Eva, Anna, Nina and Fred, returned to the homestead and, with some help from relatives, continued to operate it.

Vida began her teaching career at School District #3 and continued teaching until her marriage in 1900.

The Frank and Vida Clark children are: Doris (Mrs. L. W. Charron 1901-1979), Kenneth (1902), Iva (Mrs. C. L. Eastwood 1905-1978), Verda (Mrs. Clyde Theobald 1907-1976), and Donald (1913). Kenneth is living at Merced, California, and Donald lives on the original homestead.

Frank Clark would be remembered by his neighbors as the first to own a steam engine. It was a wood-burning portable model, moved about by a team of horses; also a corn sheller, corn shredder, wood buzz and drag saws. A 1912 Buick car furnished transportation for the family when in operating condition.

Later he had a larger steam engine, threshing machine, and early-model gas tractors.

He was precinct assessor, member of the County Board, and both he and Mrs. Clark served on the local school board.

CHARLES & CLARA CLAUFF

This is the story of the family of Charles Edward and Clara Elizabeth (Morgan) Clauff.

My parents and my older brother and sister came west by covered wagon to Nebraska, camping at night where the horses could graze. Dad lifted the small iron stove from the back of the wagon and a warm meal of wild game shot on the way was relished.

One of my most precious possessions is a chest of drawers that was marred on the trip.

While looking for land, Dad farmed a few years in Polk County where I was born.

Early in the spring of 1906, the family moved to their Merrick County home four miles west of Clarks.

Hilda Margret, born in 1907, and Charles Marvin, born in 1916, completed their family.

When chores were done, we settled around the cozy wood burning stove. Childhood memories are centered there. The long winter evenings of card games, and Dad's favorite, checkers. Then off to a cold bedroom.

Everything centered around the big dining table: big company dinners, school work, coloring and games were played. Warm weather evenings were spent outside playing Hide and Go Seek and other games.



Charles Clauff Family

Travel was slow before cars, therefore, neighbors spent their holidays together. I remember a Christmas at Divines, New Years at Booths and Thanksgiving at our house.

One room schoolhouses were three miles apart. Playtime was fun and we learned lots of things while we walked the long way to school. The last day of school was a holiday for all parents with a big noon basket meal and games in the afternoon. Bible study was held at District #25 for a while then moved to District #50.

As we grew to adulthood we three girls, Minnie, Hilda, and I, were school teachers. Brother Jack moved to Omaha and Marvin lived on a farm. *Submitted by Mildred (Clauff) Jameison*

WILLIAM L. COHAGAN

William L. Cohagan grew to manhood on a farm, which his parents homesteaded near what is now Polk, Nebraska.

In 1895 he was married to Della Bush. To this union was born one daughter, Geneva, and two sons, Paul and Donald.

For a number of years they farmed in Hamilton County. Due to his ill health, they quit farming and built a home and grocery and hardware store in Hordville, Nebraska, when that town was first started. The store, which still stands today, was called 'Mitchell and Cohagan' then 'Cohagan and Jensen'. Later they sold to The Farmer's Union. William Cohagan was manager for them for a time. He was part owner of the Hordville Lumber Company, managing that for a while.

He next moved his family to Polk, Nebraska, where he and Clarence Rodine ran a furniture store and mortuary. Selling this business, he retired and built a home in Central City, at 404 Ave. "C".

During the time he lived in Central City, he served one term as County Supervisor of Welfare.

After he passed away, his wife continued to live in the home until her death at age ninty-six in 1973.

Geneva, their daughter, after graduating from Central City High School, taught three years in the schools of Hamilton County and two years in the Hordville High School. In 1921 she married Leonard R. (Hoppy) Hopkins. To this union, one daughter was born. They started their married life at Hayland, Nebraska. They moved to Hordville, Nebraska, where they ran a cream station. Later they moved to Central City where he was a partner in the Henderson Hopkins Oil Company, running a truck for Champlin Oil Company. After selling this, he ran a poultry truck for Omaha Cold Storage. Later they moved to Wichita, Kansas, where both worked in the Boeing Airplane Factory during the war years. He passed away in 1971. The family now lives in Topeka, Kansas.

Paul, the older son, married Daisy Ryan. They have three sons: Francis in Texas, DeVon in Wyoming, and Edwin in Missouri. Paul worked for a number of years for Beatrice Creamery; then for the Hord Company at the elevator. Later he worked at the Central City Cemetery as caretaker for twenty-two years. Retiring, he built a home in south Central City.

Donald, the younger son, joined the Army at an early age, going through World War Two in northern Africa and southern Europe. After serving twenty-three years in the Army, he retired and he and his wife are now living in Shelby, Nebraska. He has three sons living on the east coast in New Jersey. *Submitted by Geneva Hopkins*

ABRAM COLBORN

Abram Colborn was born December 18, 1825, and died March 9, 1903. Mary Comfort Colborn was born January 10, 1826, and died April 11, 1899. It is uncertain whether they were married in southeastern Canada or upper New York state.

In 1855 they moved to a homestead in Wisconsin. In 1874 they moved to Merrick County, Nebraska, to again homestead. This farm was two and a half miles south of Palmer. They had six sons and three daughters. All of the sons had farms near Palmer, but eventually five moved to other states. I only remember Hiram who had a farm one mile south of my parents. He moved to California when I was a small child.

One son, John M. Colborn, was my grandfather. He was born in 1853 and died in 1918. He married Belle Jolls of St. Paul, Nebraska. She was born in 1860 and died in 1917.

Their children were Lena Colborn Woten, Edith Colborn Trout, Jessie Colborn Green, Lee J., Mark E., and Susan Colborn Gee.

A document dated June 15, 1895, states that John and Belle Colborn leased a parcel of land to School District #41 to be used as a site for a school house. This lease would remain in effect as long as the land was used for a school. My sisters, brothers, and I attended this school.

Mark Colborn was my father. He was born August 13, 1889, and died September 12, 1965. On March 19, 1911, he married Clarice Batholomew of Palmer.

My father had filed a claim on a section of land near Taylor, Nebraska, and had built a sod house. That was the home he took my mother to as a bride. She was always to say that it was better than most sod houses because it had glass window panes. My sister, Doris, and I were born there. On March 18, 1914, they had fulfilled their obligations and received title to the land.

Shortly after that, my grandparents moved to Palmer and my parents moved to the home farm.

Besides Doris Whalen, Lincoln, and myself of Fort Collins, Colorado, the children are: Maxine Baer, Spearfish, South Dakota; Rena Renshaw, Salt Lake City, Utah; Robert L., Lincoln; Jeanne Steinshouer, Arvada, Colorado; John M., Lincoln; Mark W., North Platte; and Ardythe Boyles, Wichita, Kansas. None of us have lived in Merrick County since we became adults.

In 1938 my parents moved to Palmer. Soon after that, my father was employed by the Rural Electrical Association. He was stationed first in Stanton, Nebraska, and then in Emerson, Nebraska. After World War Two, he moved to Lincoln to work for Consumer's Gas and Electric Company.

After my father's retirement, my parents built a home on the shore of Harlan County Reservoir near Republican City, Nebraska. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary there and were living there when he died.

My mother has lived with my sister, Jeanne, and her husband for the past two years. *By Maybelle C. Hoffman*

JOHN COLBORN FAMILY

John Melborn Colborn was born in Winnipeg, Canada on October 28, 1853 to Abram and Mary Comfort Colborn. He was one of six brothers and three sisters. In 1855 the family moved to Sauk County, Michigan where John grew to manhood. In 1873, his parents and several members of his family moved to Howard County, Nebraska. In the spring of 1874, John homesteaded on a farm two miles south and one half west of Palmer in Merrick County, Nebraska. On February 19th in 1880, he was united in marriage to Belle Jolls at her family home. Six children were born to this union, Jessie, Lena, Edith, Lee, Mark, and Susie. The children grew to adulthood there and several were married on the family farm. In 1912 John and Belle, with their daughter Susie, moved into Palmer. On March 12, 1917, Belle passed away. John continued to live with his daughter Susie in Palmer until June 23, 1918, when he too passed away.

The Children —

Jessie — born August 22, 1881 passed away June 21, 1971. Was married to William Green, a farmer. They had two sons and one daughter. They resided in the Palmer area all their lives.

Lena — born December 18, 1882, passed away May 30, 1969. Was married to Frank Woten, a minister. They had three daughters, and lived the major part of their lives in California.

Edith — born January 28, 1885, passed away April 13, 1979. Married Roy Trout a farmer. One son and one daughter. Lived ten years on a sand hill homestead, then moved to Scott County, Kansas, where they spent the remainder of their lives.



John M. Colborn Family — 1917

Lee — born March 4, 1887, passed away September 3, 1966. Lived on the family farm several years, joined the army in 1918. Moved to Ontario, California after the war. He married Mary Shipps, one daughter. He spent the rest of his life in Ontario.

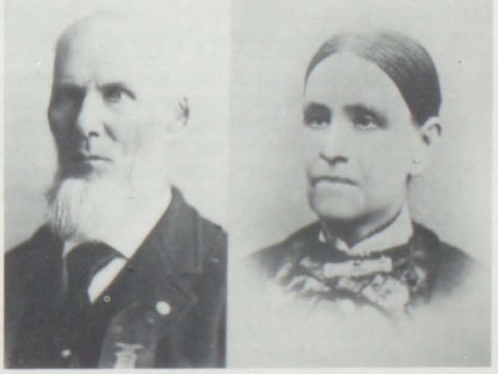
Mark — born August 13, 1889, passed away September 19, 1964. Married Clarice Bartholomew. Six daughters, three sons. Lived on the family farm several years and retired for the remainder of his life in Republican City, Nebraska.

Susie — born August 2, 1894. Passed away August 5, 1919. Married to George Gee, one daughter. She lived all her life in the Palmer Area.

The buildings on the family homestead are gone, and the land is now owned by the Victor Nicholas family. John and Belle, as pioneers, with their growing family experienced the hardships of that early life but found time for school, neighborhood, and family affairs. It was through hard work and a determined dedication that our fair state grew and prospered, and that we as descendants have inherited a richer and fuller life. *Submitted by G. Ann Green, Oldest Granddaughter*

JOHN F. COLE FAMILY

John Fletcher Cole, born in Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana, 4 November 1822, and Mary Rebecca Aceyneth Gawthrop (Gawthorpe), born in Louisville, Kentucky, 18 March 1827, were married 15 July 1847.



John F.and Mary Cole

The family immigrated in 1860 from Indiana to Minnesota. John enlisted at St. Paul as a volunteer in the second Minnesota State Infantry, Company H, during the remainder of the Civil War (1864-1865).

In April of 1871, John and Mary with seven of their eight sons and one daughter arrived by covered wagon in Clarksville from their home in Scott County, Minnesota. The eldest son, William, accompanied the family on part of the journey, but returned to Minnesota because of a special girl whom he later married.

The wagon was so crowded with the ten family members that there was no room for any belongings except the necessary bedding, dishes, and cooking utensils.

After crossing the Missouri River at Omaha where they made camp, they enjoyed pancakes baked over a campfire, their first meal eaten in Nebraska.

As they traveled westward they stopped at Clarksville which was sparsely settled at that time. Until other arrangements could be made, the family was allowed to stay in a vacant one-room house northwest of town. John and the older boys went to the Loup River for willow saplings to build a temporary shelter for the horses. Although it was April, a severe blizzard came before the shelter was completed. John feared that the horses might perish from exposure to the bitter cold, leaving the family helpless without a team; so Mary moved their few possessions to one end of the house and John brought the gentle team into the opposite end to weather-out the storm.

As soon as possible John filed a Soldiers Homestead claim about a mile south and east of Clarks. A house of three rooms and a loft was built which became the family home. This farm was later known as the Key Brothers' Farm and is presently owned by Robert Schlondorf.

The Pawnee Indians, always wearing their blankets whether winter or summer, visited occasionally. The squaws had calico or beads to trade. The Coles treated the Indians well so in turn the Indians didn't steal from them. The Indians did watch the family closely, and one Indian in particular always seemed to know when the Coles were going to thresh grain. He would come to watch and Mary would invite him to sit at the table and eat. This hospitality gave the Indians a friendlier attitude toward the family.

John and Mary's nine children were: William Albert (1848-1941); John Henry (1851-1936); Robert Mory (1854-1924); Franklin (1856-1936); Charles Wesley (1859-1933); Samuel James (1862-1948); Mary Elizabeth (1866-1959); Barret Clark (1868-1953); Clarence Donaldson (1871-1940).

The Coles were active members of the Methodist Church.

Only four of the children remained in the Clarks area for any length of time: John married Addie Dunham and after farming south of Clarks until 1908, they moved to Nampa, Idaho. Robert married Martha Richmond and following her death Robert homesteaded in Canada, never to return to Nebraska. Mary and husband, Granville Smith, spent fifty-nine of their married years together in Clarks. Barrett farmed until moving to Laramie, Wyoming where he was a member of the police force.

Mary Rebecca died 2 January 1893 and John Fletcher 15 July 1900 with burial in the Clarks Cemetery. *Submitted by Dorothy Glasser*

JOHN HENRY COLE

John Henry Cole, son of John Fletcher Cole and Mary Rebecca Aceyneth Gawthrop Cole, was born April 14, 1851, in Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana, and died November 2, 1936, in Davis, California. He moved to Clarks, Nebraska, in the fall of 1871, where he farmed with his father. On June 6, 1877, he married Addie Bell Dunham. Their children, all born in Clarks, were:

Bessie Dunham, born May 6, 1879, died January 2, 1970, Los Banos, California, buried in the family plot, Davis, California.

Charles Henry, born May 29, 1881, died October 10, 1955, Ogden, Utah.

Ada Elizabeth, born August 4, 1894, died September 14, 1961, Ogden, Utah.

Sylvia Myra, born March 22, 1905, died September 24, 1934, Ogden, Utah.

In addition to farming pursuits, John learned the carpentry trade, and after his first two children were born he worked for the Union Pacific Railway Company as foreman for a bridge construction project between Nebraska and Wyoming. He and his young family lived in a made-over pullman car which followed the construction crew across the prairie. John would be away during the daylight hours, and since they were many miles from a town it was a lonely existence. Addie was frightened many times when a tramp would appear and beg for food. She always fed anyone who came by, and, fortunately, they would walk on without harming her. When the construction job was finished, John took his family back to Clarks.

In about 1908 he moved to Idaho, where he farmed near the town of Nampa. He stayed there only a few years, and then bought a farm three miles east of Meridian. It was here that his wife, Addie, died on October 14, 1921, and was buried in the Meridian Cemetery.

My mother was Bessie Dunham Cole, John's oldest daughter. She married my father, Frank Johnson, who was also farming in Idaho at the time of Addie's death. It was at this time that we (dad, mother, my two brothers and myself) moved to my grandfather's farm. Times were hard, but we always had plenty to eat and lived a happy, simple life. Then came the Depression, as a result, my grandfather and father lost the farm and most of their possessions.

We moved to San Bernardino, California, in 1927, where grandpa joined us. In 1936 we moved to Davis, California, taking grandpa with us. On November 2 of that year he died with burial in our family plot in the Davis Cemetery.

Grandpa told me many stories, several of which were about the Indians who lived nearby when he was young. One time he and friend dug into a grave and found a peace medal. The friend actually uncovered it, but promptly sold it to my grandfather for a nickel. This medal is still among our family treasures.

Grandpa was a member of the Methodist Church and of the Masonic Lodge. He was a gentle and quiet man who set a fine example in our home of what Christianity is all about. *Submitted by: Lauretta Johnson Weeks*



Children of John F. and Mary Cole — William, John H., Robert, Charles, Barrett, Clarence, and Mary E.

ROBERT MORY COLE

Robert Mory Cole, third oldest son of John Fletcher Cole and Mary Rebecca Aceyneth Gawthrop (Gawthorpe) was born in New Albany, Indiana, 13 January 1854 and immigrated to Minnesota in 1860 with his parents and four brothers. At the age of seventeen he came with his parents and six brothers and one sister to Clarksville, Nebraska, to make his home.

Robert was married to Martha Elnor Richmond at Osceola, Nebraska, 29 September 1878. Martha E. was the daughter of Ira C. and Jane Aldrich Richmond of Brighton North Cumberland County, Ontario, Canada. The Richmond Family had come to Polk County Nebraska and then to Clarksville in 1872. Robert and Martha spent their thirty years of married life in Clarks where they attended the Methodist Church. Robert was a mason by trade.

Robert and Martha were the parents of: Florence (Mrs. High Jones); Roena (Mrs. Frank Larson); Albert; Mary (Mrs. Albert Raeder); Blanche (Mrs. Clyde Scott); Russell (who died at age eight); Milford; Mearl; Jessie (Mrs. Robert Chisholm); and Mildred (Mrs. Ralph Glasser).

Martha died 18 December 1908 at the age of forty-eight years. Burial was in the Clarks Cemetery.

In 1910 Robert took his four youngest children, Milford, Mearl, Jessie, and Mildred with him to Redcliff, Alberta, Canada where he homesteaded.

In 1924 he was visiting his brother Barrett at Laramie, Wyoming, when death occurred. Burial was in Laramie.

Of the four children who accompanied their father to Canada only Mearl and Mildred returned to the Clarks area.

Mearl worked for the Union Pacific Railraod for a number of years before going to California where he made his home until his death.

Mildred lived at Clarks until moving to the Bethesda Care Center at Central City where she is presently residing. She is the only surviving child of Robert and Martha. *Submitted by Dorothy Glasser*

SAMUEL JAMES.COLE

Samuel James Cole was born in New Ulm, Minnesota 4 January 1862, son of John Fletcher Cole and Mary Rebecca Aceyneth Gawthrop (Gawthorpe). By 1871 the family had moved to Nebraska. He married Delilah Jane Richmond, daughter of Ira C. and Jane Richmond, in Clarks, Nebraska, on 16 August 1886. Their first child, Raymond, was born there on 6 July 1887. The family was in Laramie, Wyoming, in 1890 when the second child, Erma, was born. Samuel was working for the railroad and his run was from Laramie to Cheyenne. I believe he also had a Singer Sewing Machine Agency. About 1897 the family moved to Boise, Idaho for Mrs. Cole's health. In 1901 they were in Vale, Oregon near James and Joshua Cole. In a short time they moved back to Boise and lived there until about 1917. The next move was to Seattle, Washington. Samuel was a fine carpenter and built several homes and remodeled others. In his later years he lived on a small farm across the lake from Seattle in Kirkland. He loved to hunt and fish. I believe he was about eighty-two years old when he shot his last bear. In 1948 he took the bus from Seattle to Puyallup to attend the Fair, had a stroke and died a few days later in Seattle at the age of eighty-six. *Submitted by Erma Tuite*

COLE — SMITH

Mary Elizabeth Cole was born 5 March 1866 in Scott County, Minnesota, to John Fletcher and Mary R. Cole. In April 1871 when she was five years old, Mary came with her parents and seven brothers to Clarksville, Nebraska.

Mary and her brothers walked across the prairie from northwest of Clarksville to school in town each day. The schoolhouse was on the south side of the new railroad track, and the teacher was Mrs. Martin, wife of the doctor. When Mary told the teacher her name, the teacher said, "I am going to call you Lizzie, I think that is the prettiest name." To her



Mr. and Mrs. Granville Smith and sons, Clifford, Melvin, and Willard

teacher and schoolmates she became Lizzie, a nickname which remained with her throughout her life. In 1883, Mary taught in a rural Clarksville school and then went to Minneapolis where she continued her education while making her home with her brother. After a year she returned to Clarks.

In 1885 Mary joined the Clarks Methodist Church where she so faithfully served in various capacities until her health failed. She also sang in the choir for many years.

15 September 1886 was the wedding date for Mary and Granville Smith, a contractor who had come to Clarks in 1882 at age thirty. Mary and Granville were blessed with four children. They lost Bernice Elizabeth in early childhood, and the eldest son, Clifford, died of diphtheria in 1904. The two surviving sons, Melvin (1891-) and Willard (1898-), are married and with their families live in California.

Granville was very interested in community affairs and helped organize the first band in Clarks. He was a violinist, gave violin lessons, did orchestra work and contributed his fine, tenor voice to the Methodist Church choir.

More than 400 homes in the Clarks community were built or remodeled by Granville. He helped build the first skating rink in Clarks and upon the completion of the project, the owner found he lacked $17.00 of having enough funds to pay Granville the wages due him. Granville didn't mind — he skated and collected his wages in full!

Granville believed in promoting his business and in advertising. The following advertisement which gives an insight into his jovial good nature and his sense of humor which formed a definite part of his personality appeared in the local newspaper in 1933:

"Bring me your Lawn Mower
And let me look it over.
It will be a tough one
If I can't mak'ie run.
One said I fixed it like new —
I might do that for you.
If I can't make it run'e
You can keep your mon'e.
G. J. Smith."

Mary and Granville were privileged to celebrate their sixtieth Wedding Anniversary in their home at Clarks. Their entire married life was spent in the Clarks community with the exception of two years, 1910-1911, spent in Colorado where they homesteaded.

Granville died 15 June 1947 at age ninty-four. Mary died 28 September 1959 at age ninty-three and was buried beside her husband in the Clarks Cemetery. *Submitted by Dorothy Glasser*

CONDELL FAMILY

John and Catherine Watchorn Condell and infant daughter Lillian, who was born September 19, 1899 in County Carlow, Ireland, immigrated from Ireland in the month of October, 1899. They came to the John Glynn home in Tabor, Iowa. In the spring of 1901, the Condells moved to the Craven farm northeast of Palmer, Nebraska, formerly owned by the Walter Glynn family of Tabor, Iowa. While living there, daughter Marian was born September 22, 1901 and son, Thomas, on December 19, 1902. In the early 1903, John and Catherine purchased the Burke farm which was two miles north and 3½ east of Palmer and it has remained in the Condell family. Their daughter Amy was born here on September 12, 1904. The Condell children all attended Rural School District #31. In 1957 this school building was moved into Palmer and remodeled into an apiary. Lillian, who married Lloyd Nitzel and Amy, who married Alvin H. Wergin, were both school teachers. Marian remained at home and Thomas married Esther Scarborough, daughter of William T. and Iva Hoffa Scarborough of St. Paul, Nebraska on August 19, 1931. Thomas and Esther built their new house directly West of the original home of his parents on the family farm in 1931. Thomas and Esther had three children. Dean R., born March 1, 1935 and twins, Kenneth D. and Carolyn J., born September 4, 1937. They also attended the rural school District #31.

John Condell passed away in 1933, Catherine in 1946 and Marian in 1974. They are buried at the Rose Hill Cemetery in Palmer, Nebraska.



Thomas H. Condell Family — 1971

The original home of John and Catherine Condell was moved into Palmer by their granddaughter and her family in 1962 and it is located south of the Palmer Public School.

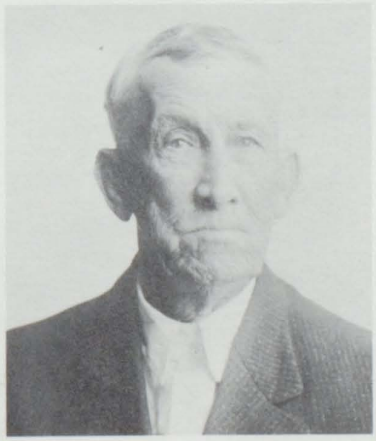
Thomas and Esther retired from active farming in March, 1979 and moved into Palmer.

Dean, his wife Joan and sons, Gregory and Micheal, live in Des Plaines, Illinois. He is employed by United Airlines, Inc., of Chicago.

Kenneth, his wife Shirley and children, Kelly and Shawn live in Palmer. Their oldest son, Darren, is living in Prescott, Arizona. Kenneth is also employed by United Airlines, Inc., of Chicago. Carolyn and her husband Arthur Davis, farm north of Palmer in the Glenwood community. Their four children are Beverly, Rita, Cheryl and Austin T. Beverly married Terry Klein, they have one daughter, Jennifer. Cheryl married Russell Retzlaff, they have two sons, Lee and Duke. Rita and Austin T. live in Grand Island, Nebraska. *Submitted by Carolyn Condell Davis*

WILLIAM COPELAND FAMILY

My Grandfather, William J. or "Squire Copeland" as he was called, was a prominent figure in the early days of Loup Township. Born in England in 1831, he came to America with his family about 1840 and lived first in Wisconsin, later in Sparta, Illinois, where he met and married Molly Rippey. In 1872, he decided to seek his fortune in the "Great American Desert". With his wife and four small daughters, he set out in a covered wagon. Arriving late in the fall, they spent the winter with his friends at Clarks, where they weathered the April, 1873 blizzard then moved to their claim north of the present town of Palmer.



W.J. "Squire" Copeland

Another daughter, Josephine, arrived in 1875. Four years later, diphtheria swept through the country, taking three of the little girls, leaving only Nell (Ellen), age nine, and Josephine, age four.

Since there were trees only along the river, the early settlers all planted trees, and Nell once earned a whole dollar, making cottonwood cuttings for a neighbor.

A school house was built about 1874, and was used also for grange meetings and church services. Mr. Copeland was made Justice of the Peace, years before the town was started, and served many years, hence his title of "Squire".

When the railroad came through and the town of Palmer was built, he sold coal and farm machinery. He walked two miles from his farm each day.

The elder daughter, Nell, finished country school, took teacher's exams, and taught several terms. She then started a business course at Lincoln but went back to teaching, took a country school near Malcolm, met a young bachelor, Will McKenney, and married in 1894.

Josephine often went with her father on business around the country, driving a horse and buggy. She, too, taught in country schools. In those days, each school contracted for two to four months of school. In 1894, the Palmer school added the ninth grade. When she finished her four-month term, she entered the ninth grade and graduated with the Class of 1895, the first class to graduate from Palmer school.

The school had two rooms, the lower grades downstairs and the upper grades upstairs, and she was hired to teach the lower grades. Except for five years at District #36, the rest of her teaching, eighteen years of it, was in the Palmer School. No wonder half the people in the community knew her as "Miss Jo".

Mr. Copeland died in 1922. His old friend, Andy Templin, wrote of him, "The noble oak of the Loup Valley has fallen!"

In 1925 "Miss Jo" married Bill Best, engineer on the passenger train, and moved to his home in Burwell, taking her mother with her. Mrs. Copeland died in 1930. Josephine raised his three young daughters, and when he retired they moved to California. In 1959 she and her sister Nell, both widowed, came back to Palmer to live in the old Copeland home the rest of their long and useful lives. Jo died in 1979, almost 104 years old. "I have had a wonderful life", she said. "God has really blessed me." *Written by Ruth McKenney*

WILLARD & RUTH COPELAND

Willard Lloyd Copeland and Ruth Irene Peterson were natives of Furnas County, Nebraska. Their families had originally moved there from Illinois. During their marriage, Lloyd and Ruth lived in Washington, Iowa; Madrid, Nebraska; and Smith Center, Kansas. In 1926, they moved to Clarks, Nebraska. "Cope", as he was affectionately called, bought the Keefe Drug Store and was the druggist there until his death from heart failure in 1959.

This pleasant little town soon became the Copeland's "roots." They were active in social and community affairs and were members of the Congregational Church. Cope was a Mason, and Ruth is a fifty-year member of the Eastern Star. They lived in the house they purchased from Wm. McLean, and after Cope's death, Ruth continued to reside there until 1978, when she became a resident of Bethesda Care Center, in Central City.

Cope always had a soda fountain in his store, and this was a favorite spot for after-school gatherings. His smile and love for children will be long remembered.

Cope's brother-in-law, Ernest Carter, was a registered pharmacist, and assisted in the drug store for several years. His wife, Evangeline, is a sister to Ruth. They moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, in the 30's.

Memories of Clarks include the tornado, "Bridge Day", climbing the old steel awning posts on Main Street, the band concerts, duck hunting and picnics on the river, 5¢ ice cream cones and cokes, trips to the "big" city of Central City, the discovery of an Indian burial ground on Swedenburg Hill.



Lloyd Copeland and Ernest Carter (behind fountain)
Old Copeland Drug Store

Ruth and Cope had two children, Terry and Virginia. Terry is with IBM in Des Moines, Iowa. He has three children: Rick, Becky, and Jeff, all of Des Moines.

Virginia Willits lives in Silver Creek, Nebraska and has four children: Vance Willits, of Madison, Nebraska; Vicki Poole, now in Tokyo, Japan; Vanita Bodnar, of Kalamazoo, Michigan; Vinson Willits, of Silver Creek, Nebraska. Vinson is married to Janet Skinner, the granddaughter of Leonard and Esther Strasburg. Ruth now has nine great-grandchildren.

From a personal view-point, Merrick County has been my home for most of my life and it seems it always will be. I've been fortunate to have traveled enough to know that this county is a very good place to live. It has beauty in nature, easy access to "city life", friendly people, steady productivity, and it is "home". *Submitted by Virginia Willits*

THE CORCILIUS FAMILY

William Charles Corcilius was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on September 8, 1854 to Edward Lewis and Rosena Niemeyer Corcilius.

Cecilia Hannah Hill was born in Colmont, Pennsylvania on April 27, 1858 to Thomas and Hannah Price Hill.

They were married December 25, 1878 at White Head Mines, Pennsylvania.

To this union were born: Rose Hannah in Brisbin, Pennsylvania on April 12, 1882 and William Henry on April 27, 1884.

The family moved to Richmond, Indiana in 1884, and from there to Central City, Nebraska in 1886. They later settled in Chapman where William Charles was a barber.

Another daughter, Ethel Ione, was born on August 10, 1891.

William Charles lost his right hand and part of his arm in a hunting accident in Cherry County in 1890. He was in the St. Francis Hospital in Grand Island after a long trip by lumber wagon to a railroad and by rail to Grand Island.

As he loved the outdoors, he continued his hunting — putting his gun barrel over the stub of his arm and pulling the trigger with his left hand. He had a hunting shack in the Platte River east of the Chapman bridge. He fed and cared for hunters who came from Chicago, Kansas City, and Omaha. He made many trips on foot with unbelievably heavy loads from his home to the shack and back.

Cecilia Hannah was a partial invalid for many years before her death. She was a faithful member of the Chapman Baptist Church. On December 23, 1915, her clothing caught fire, and she was badly burned. She died the next morning.

William Charles became ill in January, 1928 and was taken to the Triplett Sanitarium in Grand Island. He died there on September 21, 1928.

Rose Hannah finished school in Chapman, took one year of high school in Grand Island, and taught one year in District #26 in Merrick County. She and Franklin Embree Widman were married in Chapman on June 12, 1901.

William Henry finished his schooling, then became a carpenter. He married Hester Ann Lutes on March 10, 1910. They farmed near Chapman. Because of his ill health, they retired and moved to Chapman in 1945.

Ethel Ione completed her schooling, then worked at various jobs in Chapman. She served as postmistress for several years. She married Cecil C. Crone on August 16, 1917. They were later divorced.

She later worked at the Soldiers and Sailors Home in Grand Island. While there she and Claude (Barney) Garner were married.

During World War Two they moved to California where he worked at the Lockheed plant. They returned to Grand Island in May of 1942. Ethel Ione died there on July 10, 1943. *Submitted by Edna I. Widman*

WILL & HESTER CORCILIUS

William Henry Corcilius, son of William Charles and Cecelia Hill Corcilius, and Hester Ann Lutes, daughter of Robert and Melissa Belville Lutes, were married March 16, 1910 at the Robert Lutes home near Chapman. The Mother, Melissa had died in 1908.

They farmed the Lutes farm for one year, then moved to the VanCleave farm one and one-half miles northeast of Chapman. They lived on this farm about six years. (This farm is now owned by the family of the late Phil and Ida Fishburn, and farmed by Gene Fishburn.)



Will and Hester Corcilius

A daughter, Iola, was born in June of 1913. Another daughter, Wilma Cecelia, was born in October of 1914. She died June 3, 1915.

In 1917, the Corcilius family purchased the Riley Fishburn farm, located 2½ miles northeast of Chapman.

Another daughter, Lucile, was born to them in April, 1920.

The Corcilius family was active in the First Baptist Church of Chapman. They were a part of the School District #3, known as Rose Valley School, and took part in other civic organizations.

In 1944, Will's health failed and he was forced to quit farming. They purchased a home in Chapman, built by Mr. A. M. Smith, and moved into town in the fall of 1945.

Their daughter and son-in-law, Iola and Jasper Rice, moved to the farm from Grand Island at that time and continued the farm operation.

Their daughter, Lucile, was married to Jay Neilson of Redmond, Utah, in December of 1945 and is now living in Lakewood, Colorado. They have two children. Chris is married to Kathy Terrell, and lives in Oregon City, Oregon. Gwen is married to James Bollig and has a daughter, Coveah. They live in Casper, Wyoming.

In 1957, Will and Hester moved to the home of the late Stella Lutes Swanson, where they were living when Will passed away in July, 1957. Hester maintained the home until her death on March 1, 1972.

With their passing, the Corcilius name has been removed from this area of Nebraska — there are distant cousins in Omaha and Colorado. *Submitted by Iola Rice*

AARON & MELISSA COVER

Aaron Levi Cover was born March 24, 1837, at Fredericksburg, Maryland, and lived there until he was seven years old. His father's name was Aaron Cover and his mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Stoffer. His grandfather was English and his grandmother of German descent. It was in Bascom, Ohio, where he met his future wife, Melissa Miller. They were married March 2, 1862, at Marengo, Iowa. Melissa's father was John Miller and her mother was Eliza Andres (Andrews). Her birth date is July 12, 1845, at Bascom, Ohio. Aaron Levi and Melissa Cover are both buried at the Central City cemetery.

The Andres were French. Melissa's mother, Eliza, was born in Virginia. John Miller, her father, was Pennsylvania Dutch. He was postmaster at Bascom, Ohio, for twenty-five years. He lost his job as postmaster when there was a change of administration, but got it back again when the townspeople petitioned to have him reinstated.

It is said that Aaron Levi Cover loved to gamble, but quit when he heard his wife, Melissa, praying for him.

Seven children were born to this union, all of them at Marengo, Iowa, except their youngest daughter, Zora Eliza, who was born in Central City, Nebraska, August 1, 1884. The family moved from Iowa to Central City, which was called Lone Tree at that time. They came in a covered wagon.

Elmer Ellsworth was born April 19, 1863 and died September 16, 1874.

Harry was born September 9, 1865. His wife was Leticia, who was called Lettie. They had three daughters, Addie, Maude and Ruth. Harry is buried at Sunnyside cemetery, Long Beach, California.

Amanda May, born September 24, 1867 was married to Edgar Yager, April 8, 1886. May died in Denver, Colorado, in 1928. Their son, Lee, was a car salesman in Denver.

Agnes Beatrice was born October 14, 1874. Her first marriage was to John Roth. She married John (Jack) Jackson from Nebraska City and for many years they lived in Kansas City, Missouri. He died in September, 1949, and she died July 25, 1962.

Harley was born November 12, 1876, and only lived a week.

Walter Emerson was born May 3, 1878. He married Marie Reithardt on January 23, 1904, at North Loup, Nebraska. He died in a car accident



Cover Mausoleum
Central City Cemetery

near Hemingford, Nebraska, on election day in November, 1944. He had come from Lodgepole, Nebraska, where he made his home with his daughter, Carol McHargue Wright. Walter was a contractor and builder. He is buried at Sidney, Nebraska.

Zora Eliza, born August 1, 1884, married Frank Hannum. They lived in Gothenburg, Nebraska, many years where he was station agent for the Union Pacific. Later they moved to Omaha. Frank was freight agent. He retired in 1954 after serving the railroad fifty years. Zoe, as she was called, died February 5, 1929. Frank and Zora had one daughter, Gail. *Submitted by Audrey Leigh Cover Wisner*

WALTER & MARIE COVER

Walter Emerson Cover married Marie Reithardt, daughter of Heinrich Rudolph Reithardt and Sophia Johanna Dorothea Kuehl, January 23, 1904 at North Loup, Nebraska. Marie was born August 18, 1883, Norfolk, Nebraska, died March 8, 1967, Shafter, California, buried at Ord, Nebraska. Their children were:

Carol Melissa, born May 21, 1905 at Ord, and married Earl McHargue, June 24, 1924, at Riverside Park, Central City. Their son, Walter Lee "Pat" McHargue, was killed in action when USS McKean sunk off Cape Tarkina, Bougainville, November 17, 1943. Carol married Harvey Wright who died June 12, 1939. They had two sons, Harvey and Roland. She married Lester Gibson at Phillipsburg, Kansas, where she taught school for many years and now lives.

Audrey Leigh, born September 9, 1907, Scottsbluff. Married Frank H. Wisner, at Grand Island, March 4, 1928. Daughter, Francine Leigh Gallawa was graduated from University of Nebraska Medical college and is an anesthesiologist, living at Sacramento, California. Her husband, Walter E., is an attorney. They have four children. Wisners' son, Harry Kern, graduate of University Medical school, Omaha, Nebraska, is a plastic surgeon living at Tempe, Arizona. He has three children. Audrey Leigh and Frank live at Shafter, California. They celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary, March 4, 1978, when all the brothers and sisters were in California for the event. Carol, who was in Kansas, was the only one who couldn't make it.

Alice Beatrice, born June 24, 1909, Scottsbluff, graduated from Central City High in 1927. Both she and Carol were valedictorians of their class. Beatrice received her R.N. degree at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. She later took a post-course in anesthesia at Grace Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. She went to Aruba, Dutch West Indies, to work and met her husband-to-be, R. S. "Dick" Trunek, a structural engineer. They lived in Aruba several years. Later they went to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for sixteen years. They have three children, John, Robert, and Kathryn. They are now living in Wayne, Pennsylvania, retired.

Walter E., Jr., born February 1, 1911, Scottsbluff. He was in elementary school at Central City and finished high school at Grand Island, where his parents had moved. He was the first boy in the Cover household and was popularly called "Boy", a nickname he still retains. He was married June 30, 1936, at Scottsbluff to Bernice Blanche Smith. He followed the building trade like his father for several years and later worked at the Star-Herald Printing company as a printer. They have lived in California many years. Three sons were born to them: Walter E., "Spike", who was born in Scottsbluff; Patrick Kaye (Little Pat) born in Compton, California, died at Camp Polk, at the Los Campanas hospital where he was stationed in the army. Charles Lee, born at Artesia, California, now lives in Phoenix, Arizona. Walter and Bernice, retired, make their home in Bellflower.

Aaron Lee, born in Central City, January 27, 1917, was married to Beth Lenore Wisner, July 5, 1939 at Scottsbluff. They have one son, Robert Spencer Cover, who is adopted. Lee was machinist-linotype operator. He served as a First Lieutenant assigned to the Signal Corps in General Dwight Eisenhower's headquarters in London, England. He retired at Scottsbluff, where he and his wife live.

Our youngest sister, Margaret Pauline, was born July 12, 1919 at Central City. She married Paul E. Jewett at Tempe, Arizona, and later married Franklin Terkelson Dettner at Reno, Nevada, March 23, 1942. She died at San Francisco, July 21, 1963, where she had lived for many years.

Our mother was a wonderful homemaker, and our home was always a place for friends, especially at mealtime. She was instrumental in starting the Parent-Teacher organization in Central City and was president and an active worker in the Woman's Club. Mother was a member of the Christ Church guild. We attended Sunday School and church there. Later we were affiliated with the Presbyterian Church.

Our summer cottages, both at the Chatauqua Park in Fullerton, Nebraska, and at Riverside Park, Central City, were highlights of a happy childhood. My dad had a beautiful tenor voice and was offered an opportunity to join entertainers who gave programs at the Chatauquas. Because of his six children and their responsibilities, he turned the offer down and continued with his carpenter work.

My Grandmother Cover (Melissa) had always had a fear of being buried in the cold, damp ground and her son, my dad, promised her that he would not permit this. He brought Carthage marble from Missouri to Central City, and with the assistance of the monument folks, designed and built the mausoleum where my grandparents, Aaron Levi and Melissa Miller Cover are buried. *Submitted by Audrey Leigh Cover Wisner*



Cover Family — 1911 12th Street Central City
L-r — Beatrice, Marie, Walter, Carol, Audrey Leigh.
Front — Walter "Boy" and Pauline.

JOSEPH P. COSNER FAMILY

Mr. Cosner was born in Richland County, Ohio, on June 14, 1845. His wife, Sarah E. Frease, was born on July 25, 1851, in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. They were married in Bureau County, Illinois, on September 2, 1868, and were the parents of five children: Mercy Ann (Phelps), Josephine (Crosley), Andre M., Sterling P., and William H. In December, 1882, they moved to Clarks where they homesteaded seven and one-half miles northwest of town. The homestead is owned by Mrs. Harvey Phelps. It is the present residence of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Phelps and family. Mr. Larry Phelps is a great-grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cosner.

LINCOLN PHELPS FAMILY

Lincoln Phelps was born in Wisconsin in 1861, and came to Merrick County in 1867 with his parents. His father, Alnathan, died in the tornado of 1871. He was married to Miss Cora Richfield, and they had four children: Gertrude, John Alnathan, William, and Arch. John married Mercy Ann Cosner in 1908, and they were the parents of three children: Ruby (Mrs. Harvey Kuhn), Harvey L., and Harold.



Joseph P. Cosner and Lincoln Phelps Families at the Cosner Homestead

BARNEY COWGILL FAMILY

Barney Cowgill was born near Salem, Iowa, and came to Nebraska when he was a small boy. He was graduated from Clarks High School in 1911. His hobbies were baseball and hunting. Like his father, he was very mild mannered. His gentle sense of humor endeared him to his children and grandchildren alike.

In 1915 Barney married Susan Ziegler of Monroe, Nebraska, who was an elementary school teacher in Clarks at the time. They had two children: Bruce, born in 1916; and Donna, born in 1918.

Barney was a farmer. When the dry years of the "thirties" came, he had to seek outside employment in order to feed the family and "hang on to" the family farm. He worked as a section hand on the railroad, as an elevator employee for the Shonsey operation, and later as a laborer on the Merrick County bridge crew. While he was thus employed, Susie and the children took care of much of the farming operation.

Although Barney worked hard and long to provide for his family, he always had time for leisure time activities with them. He would play catch and hit "flies" to Bruce evening after evening. Then, too, time spent in a corn stalk blind shooting ducks cemented a father-son relationship that endured until Barney's death.

Bruce was graduated from Clarks High School in 1933; Donna was graduated in 1936. After high school Donna attended Nebraska Central College in Central City and the University of Nebraska's school of medicine in Omaha.

At medical college she specialized in pediatrics, and today is a pediatrician in Burbank, California. She is married to Dr. Willard Crosley, a prominent surgeon and gynecologist in Glendale, California. They have three children. Jon is an attorney in Santa Barbara, California; Madeline is an architect, married to Nelson Rasmuson. They live in Eugene, Oregon, where Nelson is a teacher in special education. Patrick is a student of nursing in California.

Susie, who liked children, went back to teaching, after her children were grown. She taught in rural schools in the Clarks area, and later was a grade school teacher at Monroe, where she commuted daily.

Before his retirement, Barney also worked as a guard at an ordinance plant in Grand Island, and as a scale and restaurant inspector for the State of Nebraska.

After graduation from high school, Bruce attended college at Nebraska Central. After two years of commuting, he took a position as seventh and eighth grade teacher at Polk, Nebraska, where he taught for five years. After five sessions of summer school, he earned a Bachelor's Degree. He earned a Master's Degree from the University of Omaha and a degree as Doctor of Education from the University of Nebraska, both of which were accomplished by taking night classes and commuting more than 100,000 miles. In all of his college work, he was never able to live a day on campus. *Submitted by Bruce Cowgill*



Barney Cowgill Family — Barney, Susie, Bruce and Donna



Bruce Cowgill Family — **Standing l-r** — Scott, Bruce, Kent, Beth. **Front l-r** — Nancy, Andy, Barbara, Eric, Doug.

BRUCE COWGILL FAMILY

While teaching at Polk, Bruce met Barbara Kindscher of Guide Rock, Nebraska, who was an English, normal training, and speech teacher in the school. She had been graduated from Hastings College and later took graduate work at Omaha University.

Bruce and Barbara were married June 2, 1940. They lived in a small, non-modern home in Polk. The rent was seven dollars a month.

To supplement a teaching income of only eight hundred dollars per year, Bruce worked in a grocery store on Wednesday and Saturday nights. Barbara was a substitute teacher.

From Polk they moved to Hordville, where Bruce was superintendent; from there to Silver Creek, where they still live in the home they built in 1959.

After a year as coach at Silver Creek, Bruce became superintendent at Duncan, Nebraska, and then at Monroe for eighteen years. The past sixteen years he has been Administrator of Educational Service Unit No 7, with offices in Columbus.

Bruce and Barbara have three sons — Bruce Kent, Lale Douglas, and John Scott. (The account of their lives is told elsewhere in this issue.)

In 1955 Barbara began teaching at Silver Creek, where she taught until her retirement in 1975. Her various subjects included kindergarten, English, Spanish, and college prep English. She and Scott spent one summer at the University in Saltillo, Mexico, studying Spanish. She is Past Matron of Silver Chapter 290 of the Eastern Star. Her hobbies include piano, poetry, outdoor activities, baking, and travel. She has traveled in all the fifty states, in Europe, Canada, and Mexico. She has written many poems and the Christmas messages in verse for the family throughout the years. She and Bruce are active in the Silver Creek Methodist Church, where they sponsored the MYF for many years.

In 1968, Bruce was appointed to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and is now serving a second term as a member of that organization.

Because of a concern for wildlife conservation, Bruce started a program called "Acres for Wildlife", that provides many thousands of acres of habitat for birds and animals, both in Nebraska and many other states. He prepared a slide program to "tell that story" and has shown it more than five hundred times all across the nation. As a result of his work in wildlife conservation activities, he has received numerous awards at both the national and international level. He is now vice-chairman of two committees in the International Association of Fish and Wildlife agencies.

Bruce is also the originator of the "Grand National Mixed Bag Hunt and Related Conservation Activities". Now in its ninth year it has brought such notables as Roy Rogers, Jimmy Doolittle, Bob Feller, governors, astronauts, and others into the area to hunt and enjoy rural Nebraska.

Bruce and the sons have been involved in crop hail work for many years and now own Cowgill General Agency, Inc., whereby they service crop hail business in all of Nebraska.

Baseball is another of Bruce's hobbies. He has served as a scout, first with the Cleveland Indians and later with the Kansas City Royals for many years. *Submitted by Bruce Cowgill*

THE COWGILL SONS

Kent, Douglas, and Scott Cowgill all grew up in Silver Creek and were graduated from high school there.

In high school, Kent was valedictorian of his class and was a member of the All-State football team his senior year. After high school he went to Midland College, where he lettered in baseball all four years and was graduated with Summa cum laude honors.

While doing graduate work at the University of Nebraska, he met Beth Robbins of Oakland, Nebraska, whom he married.

Kent has a PhD degree and is professor of English at Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota. Beth, a journalism major, is Director of Public Relations at Saint Marys College in Winona. She has also worked for the Nebraska State Historical Society. They have two children, Eric and Andrew. A sabbatical leave in 1978 allowed Kent and his family to spend six months in Europe.

Kents have recently purchased a farm near Winona, where Kent and the boys are able to pursue their hobbies of hunting and fishing. Beth enjoys hiking there.

Douglas was valedictorian of his class, and was selected for the All-Conference team in basketball in 1964. He, too, lettered in baseball at Midland College. When he decided on a career in medicine, he transferred to the University of Nebraska, where he was chosen for Phi Beta Kappa and was graduated from the University with Distinction. After graduation from Medical School at the University of Southern California, he went to Bethel, Alaska, for three years as a staff doctor for the Public Health Service. He enjoyed the outdoors and people there but returned to Los Angeles for his residency in surgery. He is now a senior resident surgeon at Los Angeles County Hospital.

Scott, too, is a graduate of Midland College, with majors in physical education and Spanish. He was a member of the tennis team at Midland and later became a certified USPTA Professional.

After graduation from college, he taught and coached tennis at Columbus for three years. He then took a year off to tour Europe and attend the Olympics in Munich, Germany.

While getting his Master's Degree at Colorado State University, he met and married Nancy Zingler of North Canton, Ohio, who was also earning her Master's Degree in P.E.

Scott taught tennis in Louisiana, Alabama, and Idaho and became a "Pro" in the John Gardener tennis chain. (Nancy taught at SW Louisiana University while there.)

When son, Colorado, was born, Scott and Nancy sought a more stable life. They purchased a home at



The Cowgill Sons — **L-r** — Scott, Kent, Doug.

Grand Island, Nebraska, where both are teachers of physical education.

It was a real accomplishment for Scott when he came in 415th in a field of over 10,000 runners in the 1980 Boston Marathon. (Both he and Nancy have won honors in "10K" runs in the area.) They enjoy weekends afield with their dogs. A new joy came when Dakota Scott was born October 11, 1980. *Submitted by Bruce Cowgill*

THE COWGILL GRANDSONS

The fifth generation of Cowgills began in Nebraska when Eric Saxon was born on March 23, 1969. His parents, Kent and Beth Robbins Cowgill, were residing in Lincoln then as both were students at the University of Nebraska. Kent was completing work on his Ph.D., and Beth was finishing her bachelors degree in journalism.

Eric's interests are mechanical in nature, and he started assembling models at a very early age. He also likes boats and ships and is interested in music and the arts.

He has also traveled extensively for one so young. In 1977 he went to Alaska with his grandparents, Bruce and Barbara Cowgill, and in 1978 he and his brother Andrew were with their parents in Europe for a six months sabbatical study.



The Cowgill Grandsons — **L-r** — Eric, Dakota, Colorado, Andy.

Andrew Robbins Cowgill was born in Winona, Minnesota, on October 19, 1974, and like the rest of his family he likes the outdoors. As a "typical" boy he enjoys hiking, skating, playing ball, and other such activities along with an interest in reading and the creative arts.

Kent, Beth, Eric and Andrew spend many hours together fishing, hunting and walking the woodlands of Minnesota. Kent's "first love" is trout fishing, an interest that Eric has picked up, too. Besides the hours spent on streams nearby, many other hours are spent together tying flies.

Colorado Zingler was born to Scott and Nancy Zingler Cowgill April 27, 1978, in Phoenix, Arizona, where Scott was a tennis "pro" at the John Gardiner camp at the time.

In the fall of 1978, he and his parents returned to Grand Island, Nebraska, where Scott and Nancy are physical education teachers in the Grand Island schools.

The family interests are hunting and sports, and on almost any fall weekend the family of Scott, with Colorado in his backpack, Nancy and their dogs "Frodo" and "Fila" can be found walking the fields in quest of pheasant and quail.

Many other hours are spent together attending football games, basketball games, and other such contests. Nancy coaches girls swimming and assists in girls basketball, and Scott and Colorado are generally in the stands among the Islander "rooters".

Colorado is a very sweet boy with a disposition much like that of his great grandfather, Barney Cowgill.

The "newest" of the grandsons is Dakota Scott, born to Scott and Nancy on October 11, 1980.

Like the rest of the family, he was initiated into outdoor activities early in life, with his first such venture being a ride in his mothers "front pack" on a grouse-hunting trip afield in Minnesota at two weeks of age. *Submitted by Bruce Cowgill*

GEORGE & MARY COWGILL

George Simpson Cowgill was born in Iowa in 1850. His parents were James and Elizabeth Venable Cowgill. They came to Iowa from Ohio sometime before 1850.

George Cowgill met Mary Elizabeth Denney and they were married at the home of her parents in Lee County, Iowa. Mary was born in 1856 to John and Sarah Cook Denney. John and Sarah Cook Denney came to Iowa from Ohio in 1846.

Like many others of their day, the call to move west in search of a better life, as their area became more crowded, came to them in 1878 in Iowa. They, with their small son, left Iowa in 1878 and came to Saline County, in Nebraska. But they found this not to be the land of their dreams. It was frequented by drought, rattlesnakes, and Indians, who still roamed the plains. They stopped by frequently for food, for they, too, found it difficult to survive in this area.

The Platte Valley in Merrick County, Nebraska, with its abundance of water and fertile soil beckoned to George and Mary Cowgill.

In 1894, George and Mary, with a family of 5 children, moved to a farm near Clarks, Nebraska.

George and Mary had one more child after moving to Merrick County. They lived on their farm near Clarks for twenty-three years, retiring and moving to Central City in 1917. Here they lived for the remainder of their lives. *Submitted by Hazel Boelts*

J. RILEY COWGILL FAMILY

The Nebraska heritage for the Cowgills started about the turn of the twentieth century, when James Riley Cowgill left Salem, Iowa, and settled in Saline County, Nebraska, where he traded his team and wagon for an eighty-acre farm.

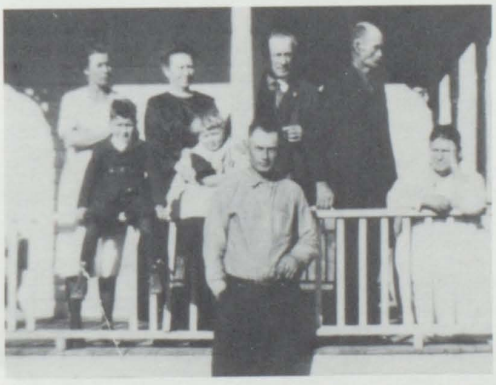
Riley, as he was generally known, was one of seven children born to James Cowgill and Elizabeth Venable of Columbiana County, Ohio. The Cowgills were of staunch Quaker stock; hence, James was dismissed from the Quaker Society for marrying a Presbyterian. Elizabeth later joined the society, however, and remained a Friend until her death.

James was the son of James Simpson Cowgill and Lucy Stanley; he the son of James Cowgill and Charlotte Holloway; he the son of Henry Cowgill and Ruth Johnson; he the son of Henry Cowgill and Mary Boulton; he the son of John Cowgill and Rachel Baker Bunting; he the son of the widow Ellen Stackhouse, who came over with the colony of William Penn's fleet of twenty-three ships on the ship Lamb, on which her son John worked for their passage, as an indentured servant.

The above paragraphs constitute the background of the Cowgills before they settled in Merrick County.

Riley kept the farm in Saline County only a short time before he traded it for an "eighty" near Clarks, so that he could be near his brother, George, who had settled near there.

Riley was married to Mary Dimery Watts, also of Salem, Iowa. They and their only child, Barney, settled on that farm, located about a mile northeast of Clarks. He also acquired an eighty-acre farm a mile west of Havens, a farm that is still in the Cowgill family.



J. Riley Cowgill Family — **Back** — Susie Cowgill, Mrs. Dan Ziegler, Dan Ziegler, Riley Cowgill. **Seated** — Bruce Cowgill, Donna Cowgill, Mrs. Riley Cowgill. **Front** — Barney Cowgill.

Riley was a quiet and peaceful man who seldom, if ever, lost his temper. This trait is a Quaker tradition.

He was a farmer, who when but a young boy lost the sight of one eye when caught in a blizzard while driving hogs to market near Salem, Iowa.

He loved the outdoors. Along with farming, he hired out as a market hunter to the Union Pacific Railroad as the railroad was laying its rails westward. As a market hunter he was paid for bringing quail, prairie chickens, ducks, and the like to the railroad as food for the workers. He often said that he never got as tired of a job in his life as he did in market hunting. (For him, hunting was meant to be a sport, and not a business.)

Riley and his wife Mary spent the rest of their lives on the farm at Clarks, Nebraska. When their son Barney married Susan Ziegler of Monroe, Nebraska, in 1915, Riley and Mary built a new home on the edge of the farm nearer town, and gave the original Cowgill home to the "newlyweds". *Submitted by Bruce Cowgill*

HENRY & ELIZABETH COX

Henry M. Cox, September 9, 1847 — July 26, 1930, and his wife, Elizabeth J. Cox, June 27, 1851 — April 30, 1923, lived in Palmer, Nebraska.

They were married in 1871 and came to Nebraska from Ohio.

Henry M. Cox was an older brother of Levi M. Cox.

To the best of my knowledge they had the following children:

Lou Cox, Guy Cox, Ralph Cox, Bessie Cox Baird, Stacy Cox and Mildred Cox Carter.

Henry M., Elizabeth J., and son, Guy Cox, are all buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Palmer, Nebraska. *Submitted by Cameron D. Cox*

LEVI & MARTHA COX

Levi M. Cox was born on November 23, 1856. Martha Emma Taylor was born on May 15, 1859. They were united in marriage on December 7, 1882. This family moved from Ohio to a farm one-half mile east of Palmer, Nebraska.

Ross B. Cox was the only child of Levi M. and Martha Emma Cox. He was born on the family farm one-half mile east of Palmer, Nebraska, on August 18, 1885.

On January 25, 1894, Levi M. Cox passed away in Palmer, Nebraska. The cause of his early death was a ruptured appendix and complications. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Palmer, Nebraska.

Ross, who was only eight years old when his father passed away in 1894, lived with his mother on the family farm until her unexpected death in 1910.

Martha Emma Cox was a devout member of the Christian Church. As a child Ross united with the Christian Church where he was very active. He grew to manhood in Palmer and was educated in the Palmer Public Schools. His favorite recreation was baseball. As a young man he played as catcher on the Palmer Town Team. In later years he helped develop and coach twilight league baseball in Central City.

On February 7, 1910, Martha Emma Cox passed away after a very brief illness. The cause of her death was pneumonia. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Palmer, Nebraska. *Submitted by Cameron D. Cox*

ROSS & EDITH COX

Ross Bartlett Cox was born August 18, 1885, on the family farm one-half mile east of Palmer, Nebraska. He was the only child of Levi M. and Martha Emma (Taylor) Cox.

In 1909, Ross entered the banking profession in the Loup Valley State Bank at Palmer.

Edith Florence Anderson was born May 2, 1893, on a farm in Polk County near Stromsburg, Nebraska. She was the third of four daughters of Axel E. and Clara (Grahn) Anderson. The Anderson family moved to their family farm a mile north and a mile east of Palmer when Edith was a year old. Her sisters were Hannah Aleda (Mrs. Ivan Swadley), Ina (Mrs. Ray Shull), and Ruth (Mrs. Thure W. Anderson).

Edith grew to womanhood and was educated in the Palmer Public Schools. She taught school on a

high school certificate for a year.

On June 28, 1911, Ross B. Cox and Edith F. Anderson were united in marriage at Palmer, Nebraska. Their first home was the Cox family farm one-half mile east of Palmer. This was the birthplace of the first two of their three children. Cameron D. Cox was born April 30, 1912. Taylor R. Cox was born October 4, 1914.

In the fall of 1914, Ross resigned his position as an officer of the Loup Valley State Bank because he had been elected Merrick County Treasurer.

The family moved to Central City. Ross was reelected to a second term as Merrick County Treasurer. He served two consecutive two-year terms, 1915 through 1918.

In January, 1919, Ross accepted a position with the National Bank of Commerce in Lincoln, Nebraska.

In the fall of 1919, Ross accepted the position of executive vice-president of the Central City National Bank. The family returned to Central City.

Here again the family attended the Christian Church. Ross held several offices in the church. He was a vigorous church lay worker.

Ross was a dedicated civic leader and worker. He was treasurer of both the Red Cross and YMCA. He directed a drive to retire the YMCA debt of $3,000.

Ross became seriously ill in early May, 1923. He underwent surgery for a ruptured appendix and complications in Grand Island.

During the last two weeks of this seven-week illness, Ross realized he probably could not recover. He calmly planned what should be done with his business affairs, the completion of the drive to raise the remaining $700 of the YMCA debt, and his funeral. He passed away on June 22, 1923. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Palmer.

Jean D. Cox, the family's third child was born on May 9, 1923, in the hospital in Grand Island while Ross was ill there.

Edith F. Cox passed away on November 23, 1965. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Palmer.

All three children are still living. They grew up in Central City and Palmer, all graduating from Palmer Public High School. *Submitted by Cameron D. Cox*

ROYDEN COX

Royden Cox was born May 2, 1900 at Cedar Rapids, Boone County, Nebraska to Tom and Martha Foster Cox. They lived on a farm and he attended his first eight grades of school in a rural district. In 1929 Royden moved to Greeley County, Nebraska where he farmed in 1929 and 1930 then he moved back to Boone County for two years then to Nance County until 1943 when he gave up farming and moved to Merrick County. In Central City where he ran the Phillips 66 filling station for three years. He started working for the city in July 1946. He was with the Water Department for three years and twelve years as Street Commissioner and since been caretaker in the parks.

Royden married Ruth Eppler December 3, 1919 in Fullerton, Nebraska. They were blessed with five children: Lucille, born November 10, 1920 and lives in Oregon; Howard born August 28, 1923, lives in Hordville, Nebraska; Norman born September 8, 1925, lives in Omaha; Letha born April 29, 1929, lives in Oregon; Raymond was born in Central City August 28, 1944 and lives in Aurora.

Ruth Eppler Cox (Royden's wife) was born December 26, 1899 to Christian and Martha Schwebke Eppler. She went to school at Primrose, Boone County, Nebraska. She died May 11, 1975 and is buried in the Central City Cemetery.

Ruth's father, Christian, was born March 15, 1868 at Wurtinbeg, Germany. He was fourteen years old when he came with his mother and sister to the United States landing in New York. Two years later in 1889 he moved to Polk County then moved to Boone County, Nebraska in 1892 where he married Martha Schwebke. Ruth's mother Marth L. Schwebke was born November 4, 1873 in Illinois and died at Ceder Rapids, Nebraska April 5, 1941. She had five sisters and two brothers. Martha and Christian Eppler were married June 2, 1892.

Royden's father, Tom, was born September 19, 1858 in St. Francis County, Missouri and died April 2, 1946 in Cedar Rapids, Nebraska. His mother, Martha Anna Foster, was born January 8, 1865 and died September 7, 1951 in Cedar Rapids. Royden's parents were married in 1877. They are both buried in Cedar Rapids.

Royden's parents, Tom and Martha with two children, Walter and Grace, came from Illinois to Nebraska in 1887 and lived in Nance County until 1890 then moved to Boone County. Tom and a brother bought a section of land in Boone County, paying $5.00 an acre. They hauled lumber from Columbus, Nebraska to build a house and barn. They lived there until 1920 then Lona, a daughter and her husband bought the farm and the parents moved into Cedar Rapids. Lona and her husband lived there until 1940 and their son fell heir to the place and still owns it. *Submitted by Royden Cox*

CHARLEY CRAIN FAMILY

Our mother, Myrtle M. Dorsey, married our father, Charley M. Crain April 3, 1901.

Edward Dorsey was the first immigrant to America in 1650. Charles Dorsey fought in the Revolutionary War. We had relations in every war the United States engaged in.

Dad was born in Mace, Indiana, 1869. He grew up on a dairy farm three miles outside of Rochester, Minnesota. He delivered milk at 2.5 cents a quart. He walked two years to Rochester Business College. He attended school with the famous Mayo brothers.

Grandfather, John Crain, was president of an Anti-Horse Thief Association, on record in Rochester, Minnesota. He would be gone for weeks at a time, chasing the Jesse James Boys and others.

They moved to York County, Nebraska, and bought a farm near the Dorsey homestead.



Charley M. Crain and Myrtle M. Crain

Mother was born in a sod house in 1879. John Leedom Dorsey, mother's father, and four other families drove teams of oxen from Ohio, after the Civil War.

They homesteaded nineteen miles west of York. The Flick family, having fought on the opposite south side, homesteaded near them. Both neighbors were buried in Arborville Cemetery nearby.

Grandfather donated one acre for a school building, 100+ years ago, which is still standing and is used to store grain. In the 1888 blizzard he used fence line as a guide, making thirteen trips to rescue a teacher and twelve pupils. Before owning a horse, he carried a 48 lb. sack of flour nineteen miles from York. He endured many hardships.

March, 1917, we moved from Bradshaw to Merrick County, and located two miles south-east of Worms. Dad's sister and brother-in-law, John Bachmans, lived on the same section. I started school at District #42 South.

We moved to our next farm 4.5 miles west of Chapman. I then attended District #29. We attended church west of us. March 1, 1924, we moved five miles west of Clarks, another farm. I finished grade school at District #21. It still stands. We neighbors held church in District #51 school house. I graduated from Clarks in 1930. In May, 1980, I returned for my first class re-union after 50 years. I drove by the locations of District #42 and District #29 and our church west of Chapman. All had vanished.

This writer is the older of two brothers and five sisters, four living. Ruth passed on in 1960. We all, except Beulah and Ruth, came to Los Angeles in January, 1937.

My wife, Edith Jackson, and I met in Los Angeles. She was born and raised on a farm near Emerson, Nebraska. She attended Wayne State College two years, and taught a country school for two years before coming to Los Angeles.

We have one daughter and six sons, all living. Having spent thirty-seven years in Aircraft for Lockheed and Douglas Company, I retired in 1975.

Our parents, Charley M. and Myrtle M. Crain, are buried in Inglewood Parks Cemetery, the largest Cemetery in California. We and two sons, to date, plan to be buried in the same plot, namely Avolon. *Submitted by Lyle Crain*

RALPH CRANDALL FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Crandall were early Chapman residents arriving in Chapman from Omaha about 1900. Seven of their eight children were born in Chapman.

Mr. Crandall owned and operated a general store for many years, later selling it to Tom Reeves. They moved to Denver where Mr. Crandall died in 1918, two weeks before the birth of their eighth child, a son.

Mrs. Crandall remained in Denver and reared her family then moved to Santa Monica to live with her youngest son, George. She became interested in sports and was known as "Ma Crandall" cheerleader for the UCLA Bruins in all major sporting events. In 1943 at the Rose Bowl game her rooting voice became too weak. She used a cowbell to help with her cheering. The cowbell became part of "Ma." She went on many trips with the football team. Ma was also a familiar figure at the basketball games.

One son, Ralph Crandall is a lawyer in Denver, Colorado. Several children preceded her in death. *Submitted by June Vipperman*

MARK CRANDELL FAMILY

Central City has been home to the Crandells since August, 1936. We arrived here on a hot afternoon, and rented the O. T. Bishop property on East 17th Street, where we lived until buying our present home on 15th Avenue in 1945.

Mark was to teach instrumental music in the Central City Schools, a position he held for thirty-two years, retiring in 1968. He died in 1973.

I worked part-time at Hudgens Variety Store, Farmer's Union Grocery, Nelson Jewelry and Delancey Dress Shop. This we later owned, but closed out in December, 1972.

Our childhood homes were in Nebraska City. We were married in July, 1925. Mark started his teaching career in Franklin, Nebraska, that fall following his college graduation in August.

We have three children. Beverly was born in Fullerton, Nebraska, Donovan in Columbus, Nebraska, and Carol in Central City. The three children attended public schools and graduated from the Central City High School.

Beverly is a Nebraska Central College graduate. She worked in Kearney, Nebraska, for six years and is now living at home. Carol and Donovan are University of Nebraska graduates and, like their father, chose musical careers. Both were married in



Mark Crandell Family

1960. Carol has two children, Joel and Amy.

Prior to Donovan's graduation, he served four years in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S. Air Craft Carrier, The Phillipine Sea. During his Navy Service, he was privileged to attend the Navy School of Music in Washington, D.C., for eighteen months. He now lives in Park Forest, Illinois and teaches music in the Palos Park Junior High School.

Carol and her husband, Darwin Dasher, both teach music in the Winterset, Iowa, schools. Darwin served four years in the U.S. Air Force. They were stationed in Panama during the rioting in the early sixties.

Our early years in Central City were depression years with little of the wordly goods, but we made do. For entertainment we enjoyed weekly band concerts at North Park in the summer, school affairs, family picnics, Masonic, Eastern Star and Jobs Daughter affairs in which our family participated.

Mark had many hundreds of fine, talented band students, and he never lost his love for teaching. The highlight of his career came when he received an invitation from Mr. Marvin D. Myers, director of music from Purdue University in 1950, to bring his band to Washington, D.C., in September to represent Nebraska at their Sesquicentennial. Central City residents and many outstate organizations made this trip a reality, one not soon forgotten by the many who attended.

Mark, Donovan, and Carol each took a turn at directing and singing in the Presbyterian Church Choir. Beverly also sang with the choir.

We celebrated our twenty-fifth Anniversary in 1950 with an open house and reception.

Central City has been good to us. Beverly and I still call it home. *By Buena Crandell*

SAM CRAWFORD FAMILY

Sam and Myrtice Crawford moved to Central City from Butler County about 1897. Sam was born in Pennsylvania, but grew up in Tama County, Iowa. Myrtice was born in Missouri and grew up at Carson, Iowa, daughter of T. P. Hogue. Sam farmed around Central City, and worked off and on for Hord Company. They were active in the Methodist Church. Sam could preach — he felt that he had been called to preach but refused God's command.

Sam died at his home in Central City in November 1935, and Myrtice died in May, 1950. They are buried in Central City.

Paul was born near Garrison, Nebraska. He married Mabel Currey in December, 1914. He was a realtor in Central City at the time of his death in 1966. Mabel died February 2, 1981. Paul's daughter Patty Luft lives in North Platte.

Eva was born at Central City in 1899. She graduated from Central City High School in 1918. She taught school, and moved to Lincoln County. She married Fred Huebner in 1929, he died in 1936. She taught school again, and was a bookkeeper for fifteen years. She is now retired in North Platte.

Eva's son George, farms near Hershey; he has five sons. *Submitted by Eva Huebner*

ROY CREUTZBERG FAMILY

In early March of 1948 Roy Creutzberg came to Central City, Nebraska to farm. Roy was born May 6, 1920 at Prairie View, Kansas and Gertrude (Trudy) Kneubel was born August 10, 1924 at Long Island, Kansas. Because we were unable to find a farm to rent in our hometown area, Roy's uncle, Dr. H. F. Greving, bought the "Hathaway" place north of Central City and we came to farm it. We were married on May 28, 1948 and remember well that first winter because of all the snow! Coming from the hills of Kansas to the flat plain of Nebraska was quite a change but we liked it. Farming on the "ridge" wasn't easy but then irrigation came in and we have enjoyed an abundant life. We have three children: Paula Jolene, born April 10, 1951, is a graduate nurse, resides in Topeka, Kansas and on June 6, 1981 will marry Doug Jacobs. Our son, John William was born December 28, 1959, is in partnership with his dad in the farming, cattle and hog operation. On June 8, 1979 he and Mildred Eileen Smith were married at Wauneta, Nebraska. On March 2, 1981 we were blessed with our first grandchild, Shellie Eileen. Our youngest, Julie Kay, was born October 5, 1961, graduated from Nebraska Christian High School and is now attending Biola College in La Mirada, California. On February 17, 1981 Roy was awarded the 1980 Farmer Award by the Central City Chamber of Commerce. We are deeply grateful to the Lord for His many blessings to us and appreciate the fine neighbors and friends we have in this community. *Submitted by Trudy Creutzberg*

WILLIAM & PHEBE CRITES

William Henry Crites was born on a farm in Scioto County, Ohio, March 6, 1841, the second of nine children born to John and Cecilia (Heath) Crites.

In 1853 the family moved to Mason County, Illinois, and began a new farm. On August 12, 1861, William enlisted in Company E., 27th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

During the Civil War he saw a great deal of action, recording in his diary fifteen major battles, including Chickamauga and Atlanta. Sustaining no major wounds, he was mustered out on September 20, 1864.

Returning to Illinois, he met Phebe A. Saxton, the eldest child of Joshua P. and Clarinda (Long) Saxton. She was born near Circleville, Ohio, March 19, 1849, and moved to Logan County, Illinois in 1864. They married in Lincoln, Illinois, September 18, 1867, and became the parents of the following children: Myrtle (1869-1929), Ivy (1871-1957), Clay Howard (1874-1905), David Evan (1877-1953), Rose Ella (1880-1959), Lorretta Jane (1883-1892), Ethel May (1885-1962), and William Francis (1887-1970).



William and Phebe Crites

In 1871, the family moved to Merrick County, homesteading the southeast quarter section where the Prairie Creek Baptist Church later stood. Their second child, Ivy, was born shortly after arrival in a rude shanty fourteen feet square. During the first year, until crops could be planted, William supported the family with carpentry work.

In the fall of 1874, following the grasshopper devastation, he and Levi Willoughby formed a party to hunt buffalo in western Nebraska. This was quite successful, and provided their subsistence during the following winter.

They occupied several farms during the next twelve years. However, in 1887, he was elected county sheriff on the Republican ticket, causing a move to Central City. He held many civic offices during his later life, and was an active Mason and Methodist.

Aside from a short time in California, the couple spent their final years in Merrick County. In 1918, William suffered a stroke and eventually died of complications on July 31, 1920.

Phebe survived twenty more years, keeping active in the church and hosting the many gatherings of her large family. After a brief illness she died April 15, 1940. *Submitted by William R. Marsh, M.D.*

RONALD CUBA FAMILY

Ronald Lee Cuba (Ron) and I (the former Pat Beck) were married in the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Silver Creek where he is a member. I am a member of the United Methodist Church here. We live in a new trailer home in Silver Creek. Ron farms his mother's place, located about thirteen miles northwest of here. I work at Kula's Grocery three days a week.



Ronald Cuba Family

Ron is the son of the late Steve Cuba and Mrs. Regina Torson. His father died when Ron was twelve years old. Ron's mother lives on the family farm. Ron has one brother, three step brothers, and four step sisters. He attended the Krakow School until he was a seventh grade student and then entered the Silver Creek school system. Both he and I received our high school diplomas here in 1974, having been classmates for six years. He enjoyed participating in basketball and football while in school, and a highlight was being a member of the basketball squad in 1973 when Silver Creek succeeded in playing in the state tournament in Lincoln. At the present time, he plays on the Silver Creek town team. Other hobbies he enjoys are hunting and golf.

I am the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Beck, and part of my early life is recorded in that family history. My parents, brothers, and sisters all enjoyed horseback riding more than I did, but I reluctantly joined in that family hobby. Unbelievably, one time I received a first place in the barrel-racing event at a Lake Mary show at Central City. I spent my first three school years at Clarks, and

entered Silver Creek as a third grade pupil. I had a little problem adjusting to the move and change of schools, but before long, I was an avid Silver Creek fan as opposed to their greatest rival, Clarks. Extra-curricular activities in my school career included volleyball, track, pep club, cheerleader, and band. During most of our school years, my sister Joan and I were best friends and we still are. Another special friend was Nora Sabeter, an exchange student from Caracas, Venezuela, who lived in our home for a while. We still correspond.

We now enjoy the two lively daughters we have. Jolene Kay is in kindergarten this year having been born July 3, 1975. Jan Marie, whose birth date is August 20, 1976, is enrolled in Sunny Corner Preschool. *By Mrs. Ron Cuba*

JAMES M. CURTIS FAMILY

Grandmother Curtis was a Yankee. Emerancy Mahala Cadwell was born October 28, 1825 in Ondondago County, New York. Her parents had come from England.

At the age of twelve she moved with her parents to Porter County, Indiana. On November 24, 1842 she was united in marriage to James M. Curtis. James M. Curtis died in Indiana in 1864. They had eight children. Florissa Ann married William F. Campbell. They had eleven children. Their family history appears in this book.

Betsy Jane married Zalmon Peck. Their children were: James, Orrin Charles, Almyra, Jerome, Zalmon C. Darwin and Nancy. For many years the Peck family returned to Indiana for family reunions.

Lyman Kent, my great grandfather, married Ida Scarborough. Their history is in this book.

Mary married Stotin Cheever. They had two sons, Zall and Neil. A Stoughton A. Cheever, soldier, filed for his homestead on September 22, 1873 at the Grand Island Land Office.

Alanthus Chester married Sarah Nicholas. They lived near Genoa, Nebraska. Their children were James, Leola, Almyra and a daughter who died in infancy.

Charles married Mary Comfield. They had no children. Charles later married Grace Ann Wherrett.

James and Homer died as young men and had no families.

Emerancy Curtis moved to Merrick County with her sons Charles and Lyman in October of 1878 and settled in what is now the Gage County area. In 1904 she and Charley moved to Callaway, Nebraska where he was in the merchantile business and did some farming. Charles married there but had no children.

Emerancy Cadwell Curtis had a sister Caroline and a sister Em. Em married Orson Strong. After Orson died, Em lived with her daughter, Laura, wife of John Whalen. They moved from Nebraska about 1899 to Livinston, Montana. *Submitted by Leota Rawlings Baird*

LYMAN CURTIS FAMILY

Lyman Kent Curtis was born in May of 1850, the son of James M. and Emerancy (Cadwell) Curtis.

He married Kathryn Gibbs. Two sons were born to them — William Peter, who married Pearl Warner, they had one son, Lyle Floyd, who was born at Palmer, and James O., who married Ida Mabel Deveny. They had one daughter, Hildred, also born at Palmer. Kathryn Curtis died in Indiana.

In October of 1878, he moved with his mother and brother to the Palmer area in Merrick County.

On July 4, 1880, he was married to Ida Hannah Scarborough, daughter of Thomas and Caroline Scarborough of Palmer.

To this union were born; Charles Thomas who died in infancy; Anna Pearl, (my mother, who married J. O. Rawlings); whose history appears elsewhere in this book.

Lyman Barker, who married Bessie Knapp. Their children were Gerald, Lloyd, Hazel and Mabel. Ida Caroline married Page Reed and made their home in Wyoming. They had no children. Edward Merle married Fern Hesseltine and had one son Floyd. Homer married Etta Hiatt and they had three children; Margaret, Hazel, and Homer Marion. Secelia married Raymond Hiatt, they had four children; Lyman, Charles, Doris, Secelia Pearl.



Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Curtis

Daniel Donnelly married Florence Durham, they had a son Floyd. Jenny Grace married a minister, James Trevithick. They spent much of their lives in Colorado.

Zelda Belle married Minor Skinner. They had nine children; Ida, Floyd, Charlotte, Shirley, Betty, Robert, Charles, Darlene, and Sandra.

In 1900 my grandparents moved to Wheatland, Wyoming where they lived the rest of their lives.

Lyman Curtis lived in Wheatland, Wyoming and was a carpenter by trade.

My mother, Anna Pearl, was the third child by a second marriage. She was born at the family home near Palmer, on October 7, 1882. She attended school and grew to womanhood there. She moved to Wyoming in 1901, going by train accompanied by her sister. After her marriage she and Dad lived in Wheatland, Wyoming for five years, returning to Merrick County in 1907.

Mom was a mild mannered woman who always seemed cheerful. She had a lovely voice and could whistle beautifully. She was often heard singing or whistling while she worked. Mom always had time to sit down and talk and greatly enjoyed her thirty grandchildren. She also had seventy-seven great grandchildren. *Submitted by Cecil Curtis Rawlings*

JULIUS DABERKOW FAMILY

Carl Daberkow, his wife, Frederika, and three children came to the United States in about 1867 from Germany, settling in Wausau, Wisconsin. My grandpa, Carl Daberkow, bought cutover timberland. Three additional children were born. Herman Daberkow, my father, often remarked that it was hard work grubbing out tree stumps to clear land for farming.

The family grew up in Wisconsin. They heard about Hall County, Nebraska — land without tree stumps. Grandpa sold out and came to Hall County and lived southwest of Grand Island. They farmed there several years, then moved east of Grand Island about two miles. Grandpa bought a timber claim about six miles east of Grand Island in Vieregg Township, Merrick County.

Several years later, Grandpa bought one hundred sixty acres of railroad land in Section 3, selling it later to my dad. Grandpa lived in Section 4, Vieregg Township. My dad built a house and barn. Later he married Ameilia Jaenicke from Howard County. Three children were born on that farm. Caroline, Julius, and Arthur all went to District #2 Southside. All are still living.

Dad got married in the 1890's during the grasshopper plague. Dad and Grandpa decided to go to the Casper Hohman Farm about forty rods away, now owned by George Senkbeil. The hoppers were so thick and big, it was like walking in a hail storm. The hoppers had a big appetite for onions. They ate everything that was green.

I now own the farm that my dad owned, and it is farmed by our son, Don. It has been in the Daberkow family for about one hundred years.

I married Christine Gerlach of Harvard, Clay County, Nebraska, April 6, 1926. We have two boys and two girls. Don is a farmer. Stanley works in Washington, D.C., for the U.S.D.A. Donna, Mrs. Richard Larsen, lives in Kearney and works for the telephone company. Phyllis, Mrs. Robert Dryer, is a housewife and teacher part time in Grand Island.

My parents belonged to German Methodist Church in the Wiegert and Rembolt community. Later they transferred to the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Grand Island. My wife and I belong to Faith United Methodist Church in Grand Island.

When my dad was still farming, a catalpa tree salesman wanted to sell him a large amount of trees to be used as railroad ties whenever they became large enough. Dad told him "No." He didn't want any more tree stumps on his farm!

I enjoy farming. I started farming about 1924 with a gang plow, and used five, and sometimes six, horses. During the years on the farm I have gone from one-row cultivation through two-, four-, six-, and eight-row cultivation now used by my son, Don.

I am a retired farmer with a lot of hobbies: fixing fence, discing, go-digging, and hilling corn, as well as baling hay. I am eighty-five years old, my wife is eighty, and, thank the Good Lord, I am able to do all these things and will continue as long as I'm able! *Submitted by Julius Daberkow*

ALFRED DAMMANN

Alfred Dammann, the oldest son of Claus and Minnie Dammann, was born April 1, 1881. He received his education in the parochial school at Worms. He helped his parents with farming and chores: raising cattle, hogs, and poultry of all kinds, and milking cows by hand.

On May 9, 1906, he married Katherina Hinrichs and lived in a four-room, two-story house across from his parents' farm and continued in the farming operation with his father. They had four children: three daughters, Hildegard Brase, Agatha Luebbe, and Irene Bahensky, and one son, Arnold. Alfred and his family were members of Zion Lutheran Church and he was an officer of the church for many years. He was one of the organizers of the Union Grain Company of St. Libory and served on the Board of Directors until approximately 1962.

He was a Farmers Union member and helped in promoting the building of the co-op store in Worms in 1928, and was a charter member of the board for several years.

In approximately 1959, he sold his farms to his children, but continued to live on one of them until 1965, at which time he moved to a small house in Worms, where he spent the last few months of his life. Mrs. Dammann passed away in 1960. *Submitted by Arnold Dammann*



Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Dammann

ARNOLD DAMMANN FAMILY

After hearing the stories of the early pioneers, what I have done, how I have lived, and what I have accomplished seems very insignificant to me.



Arnold and Alma Dammann

I was born to Alfred and Katherina Dammann in February of 1910. As a child I went to Zion Lutheran school for eight years. I then attended Palmer High School and helped my parents with the farm work, mostly herding cattle along the road ditches in the summertime.

In 1933, I married Alma Peters. We have two daughters, Virginia Bowzer and Barbara John, and one son, Roland (Cork). We have five grandchildren: Gregory Bowzer, Tamara John, Rick John, Michael Dammann, Steven Dammann.

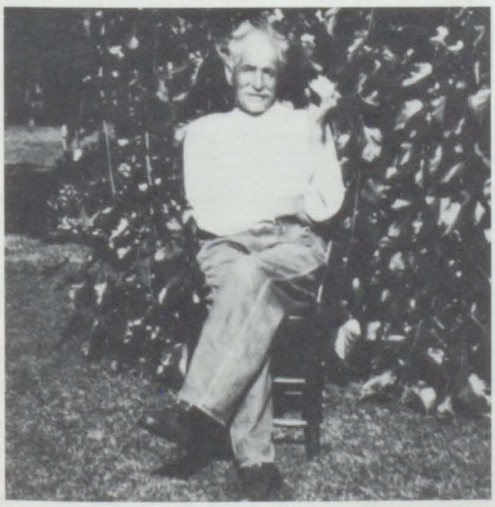
We farmed the farm on which I grew to manhood, and bought it in 1946. In 1958, we bought the eighty acres which was the homestead of my grandfather. We farmed the original or first farm for over thirty years. When our son married, we moved to the homestead and he and his wife moved onto the home place.

Cork and his sons, Michael and Steven, now farm it, making it the fourth and fifth generation to farm the land. *Submitted by Arnold Dammann*

CLAUS DAMMANN

At the age of eighteen, Claus Dammann came to America in 1868. His first years were spent clearing land in Michigan. In 1872 he came to Nebraska in a covered wagon, pulled by oxen, and settled on a homestead one mile northwest of Worms. He also had a timber claim about one mile east of St. Libory. Some of the trees still stand.

His first job was to build a sod house, shelter for himself and his oxen in bad weather.



Claus Dammann

He told many times of the bad storms in the winter, especially the one of 1873, which, according to him, was worse than the one of 1888. At that time he had no money, or he would have gone back to Michigan.

He told of grass fires that burned the grass roof off his house. He survived by covering himself with wet blankets. He told of grasshoppers that ate everything, even the canvas he used to cover his garden. The canvas was from his wagon.

In 1880 he married Minnie Wagner, a neighbor girl. Nine children were born to this union — three sons and six daughters.

To supplement their living, he got a job at the mill in Grand Island, a distance of sixteen miles, which he walked, carrying plow shares to the blacksmith or a sack of flour on his shoulder.

They also went to the Loup River to cut their wood, leaving early in the morning and returning late at night, walking by their wagon and picking up buffalo chips; all for heating their house and cooking. In the early days, the Indians would also come around to the door, begging. They liked homemade bread and would take all in sight. So, the bread was hidden except one loaf. They would take the one loaf and leave happily.

To say the least, the times for the pioneers were hard, but the opportunities were great. There was game in abundance. Deer, buffalo, and prairie chickens could be shot from the doorway of the house.

It was open range to the north and west, which was hay and grass for their cattle and horses after they quit farming with oxen. After a few years here, he built a house and barn of wood, the barn having a straw roof until 1895. At that time, wood shingles replaced the straw and in years to come he enlarged his house and put up other buildings and bought more land.

His was a show place for many years.

Claus Dammann was one of the original members of Zion Lutheran Church in Worms and served as an officer. He took a very active part in all church affairs.

He passed away in June of 1930.

At this writing, only one daughter, Minnie, remains of this family. *Submitted by Arnold Dammann*

BEAN & EMILY DANIELS

Bean Darwin Daniels, son of James Darwin Daniels and Emma Celestia Day was born in 1883 at Wilton, Minnesota. In 1906 he married Emily Thomas Roark, the daughter of Elisha Henry and Eliza Warren Roark. They lived in the Warm Slough area east of town.

The James Darwin Daniels family came to Merrick County in 1890 from Wilton, Minnesota. Mr. Daniels was a Civil War veteran and homesteaded the N.E. ¼ of Section 18, Township 14, Range 5. The deed was in testimony of Grover Cleveland, President of the United States on July 31, 1893. Mrs. Daniels paid $1,500 for the adjoining S.E. ¼ section.

Their family consisted of James Day; Ada Adell, Frank Benjamin; Sydney Burr; Ed Leroy; Bean Darwin; Byron Weller and George Able. The four older children were married and in their own homes when the family came here.

I have heard my father tell of hunting quail and prairie chicken with his two brothers, and selling them to the Union Pacific. The railroad used it for food in the dining cars. They gathered tumbling weeds and tied them together and sent them bouncing with the north wind in hopes they would lodge on the railroad track.

Four of the brothers formed an orchestra and played for local barn dances. Bean played violin with other groups for many years.

The Daniels sold their farm and moved into town where they built a home on the corner of 13th Avenue and 13th Street. In 1910 they moved to Montevideo, Minnesota and bought an apple orchard.

Emily Thomas Roark came to Nebraska in 1888 from Campbellsville, Kentucky. Her family lived on the Joseph Paro farm for fifty-five years where Mr. Roark was an excellent farmer. He prided himself on having the straightest, cleanest rows in the area.



Bean D. and Emily Daniels

The Roark children were Charles Emmett; Emily Thomas; Gertrude; Henry Arther; Myrna Bethel; Hazel Nancy; and Flora Vivian. Vivian lives in Grand Island.

The B. D. Daniels had one son, Frank Newell, who lives in Omaha and is married to Vera Mae Willeman. They have one son, Barry Dennis, who is married to Janet Nelson. They have one son, Barry Dennis II.

Opal Daniels, their daughter, married Stanley Bice. Their son is Thomas Newell. He married Marilanne Schlupp in Denver. They have a daughter, Melissa Ann, and son James David. They live in Central City.

Emily and Bean are buried in the Central City Cemetery. *Submitted by Opal Daniels Bice*



James D. Daniels Homestead — North of Central City

DANIELS — VIPPERMAN

We were off to a great adventure that day. Our mother, Laura Vipperman, after having been widowed for seven years, had just remarried and our new father was Lloyd Daniels.

We knew that we'd soon be moving from our farm home in northeastern Nebraska to a village named Chapman and that was an exciting prospect. Our move was in March of 1928 and our father had arranged to go into partnership with his twin brother Floyd Daniels.

Their garage, alongside Highway 30, was located across the road from the Union Pacific depot. Business, though not always brisk, was interesting. Perhaps one of the most unexpected forms of barter which developed was because of a dilapidated bakery truck, whose driver somehow managed to get it

as far as Chapman before it broke down. As a result, in exchange for repairs, our dad would come home with a bakery tray loaded with goodies. What a treat that was during those depression years!

But the greatest surprise of our young lives was the day a player piano, along with a huge box of music rolls was delivered to our home. Although by this time each of us six children had acquired special friends, it was with a new interest and frequency that they came to our home. It is a wonder that our mother Laura managed to endure the happy confusion and noise we created night after night with our sing-a-longs.

Seeking a more profitable livelihood, Lloyd created a new business with the purchase of a dump site. After filling and packing the area, he constructed a filling station. This work continued until years later when he became a trucker. At first he dealt in livestock and later in the purchase and sale of grain.

Perhaps the position in the community which won him the most friends and affection was the job as local constable. Lloyd had so much love and compassion for people that it wasn't in his nature to be unkind or harsh with anyone. But often in the course of his duties he was expected to chastise the community youngsters who had been involved in some type of misconduct. However, his kindness and understanding reigned. Thus, from those encounters with the young emerged many warm and lasting friendships. His last service to the community was maintenance of streets and roads for Chapman Township.



Emil and Ida Dankert Family



Daniels-Vipperman

Although I have written more concerning our father, all of these years our mother was also working with diligence. If I were to choose one thing for which I'm most grateful, I would thank her for the effort she made to instill in our consciousness a sense of loyalty, honor and respect for one another. We, their children — Fred Vipperman, Edna Stoltenberg, Merle Mendenhall, Helen Vipperman, Evelyn Stockdale, and I, Mildred Huggard, pay a loving tribute to their memory for the good which they have given. *Submitted by Mildred Vipperman Huggard*

EMIL & IDA DANKERT

Emil Dankert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Dankert, was born in Holstein, Germany, in 1870. At the age of four, he came to America with his parents, and lived two miles south of Worms, Nebraska, until 1892. At that time, he was united in marriage to Miss Ida Quandt, and they moved to the farm two miles north of Worms where they lived until his death in 1948.

The Dankert family were members of Zion Lutheran Church at Worms. Records show that Emil was confirmed there in 1884. His thirteen children all attended the parochial school there.

Emil's farming operation included cattle, hogs, bees, and a fine apple orchard. The farm is presently owned by a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Ernest (Lois) Dankert, of Columbus, Nebraska. The following information is taken from the Merrick County Atlas, published in 1917:

"Emil Dankert, Farmer & Breeder of Polled Durham Cattle
'The Hillside Polled Durham Stock Farm'
S.5, T.13, R.8, P.O. Saint Libory"

Children of Emil and Ida who are still living at the time of this writing are: Mrs. Rosa Ottemueller of Grand Island, Mrs. Minnie Wegner of Norton, Kansas, and Mrs. Alma Bowers of Aurora, Nebraska.

Descendants presently living in Merrick County are two grandsons, Alfred and Melvin Dankert, six great grandchildren, and six great, great grandchildren.

The accompanying picture is of the entire family of Emil and Ida Dankert. Pictured, from left to right, in the back row: Frieda, Clara, Art, Herbert, Rosa, and Albert. In the center row: Martin, Richard, and Minnie. In the front row: Ida (mother), Ernest, Alma, Irma, Emil (father), and Armin. *Submitted by Alfred Dankert*

LARRY DEARKING FAMILY

Larry and Ilene Dearking and their children, Amy, born 1970 and Michael, born 1972, moved to Central City in 1973. Larry and Ilene were married in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1968.

Larry, born April 29, 1946 to Leonard and Marian Molthan Dearking, was raised on a farm near Ohiowa, Nebraska. Following high school graduation, he attended the University of Nebraska, then received his DVM from the University of Missouri — Columbia in 1971.

Ilene, born February 28, 1946 to Clarence and Loretta Markey Rippe, was also raised on a farm near Ohiowa, Nebraska. She graduated from the University of Nebraska, College of Home Economics in 1967. She taught school one year in Valparaiso, Nebraska and three years in Harrisburg, Missouri.

After his graduation, Larry and Ilene spent two years in Wisconsin where he practiced veterinary medicine in the dairy region of Tomah, Wisconsin.

Since moving to Central City, where Larry is associated with the Central City Veterinary Clinic, two more sons, Timothy, born 1973, and Jeremy, born 1976, have been added to the family.

The family's interests include travel, sports, hunting, antiquing and raising quarter horses, hogs, cattle.and rabbits.

The family resides in the home built by the Elmer Ross' at 2225 16th Avenue.



Larry Dearking Family

FRIEDA MEYER DeHART

Frieda Lena Margaret was born December 6, 1914, the daughter of Herman Frederick Meyer and Anna Marie Bormann Meyer, on their farm northwest of Worms, Nebraska. In 1918, she moved with her parents to a ranch northwest of Burwell, Nebraska. She married John DeHart on December 12, 1936. John was the son of George and Anna Mary DeHart, and was born August 19, 1916.

Frieda and John had twins born September 19, 1936. They were named Joan Frieda and John.



Mr. and Mrs. John DeHart

In October of 1940, Frieda contracted polio. In 1942, her husband John built a bicycle for two. This was used as exercise to try and strengthen Frieda's legs. The summer of 1942, John and Frieda rode this bike from Burwell to St. Paul, Nebraska.

Frieda and John's son John married Linda Rae Hamburger, and they have four children. Rebecca Jean was born September 22, 1967. John Edmond was born April 26, 1970. Timothy Ray was born September 21, 1971. Freida Kristine was born December 24, 1976.

Joan Frieda, John and Frieda's daughter, married Joseph William (Bill) Buxton on January 14, 1977. They have one daughter, Trinia.

John died October 9, 1975, at the Colorado University Hospital of emphysema. Interment was in the Crown Hill Cemetery, Lakewood, Colorado. Frieda lives in Doniphan, Nebraska, with her son John and his family. *Submitted by Frieda DeHart*

PAUL & VERNA DEICHMANN

Paul Theodore came to Merrick County in 1926 from Leigh, Nebraska. He was the second-oldest of nine sons of Arthur and Anna Deichmann of Leigh who were both born in Germany. Verna Marie was the second oldest of five children of George and Mollie Botsch of Leigh.



Paul and Verna Deichmann 1976

Verna had been a school teacher when in April, 1926, Paul and Verna and her sister, Gladys, and Harry Hahn were married in a double ceremony. Verna's parents, in an earlier visit with friends, Charlie Dunavons of Archer, liked the lay of the land, so later they purchased a farm north of Central City, where Paul and Verna lived for one year. We started with four good horses. Paul and one of his brothers did cross-country moving in two days with equipment and livestock.

We had very little rain that year, so crops were poor. After picking our meager corn crop by hand, we turned the horses and cows in the stalks. The horses got poisoned and went wild. Losing our livestock, we purchased two new horses and returned to Leigh.

Here our children were born: Gordon in 1928 and Shirley in 1929. We had a few good years until 1932, when the depression hit. Hogs were 2¢ lb. and eggs 5¢ dozen.

In 1934, rent was so high we moved back to Central City, this time on a farm owned by Verna's uncle, Areanus Aukerman, which he purchased in 1905. We lived here from 1935-1945, and purchased it in 1968. At times we raised little, as it was during the drought. Paul worked wherever he could. We learned to paper many a home.

Verna was on the first 4-H committee and the first county extension chairman; also was active in Hospital Auxiliary. In 1939, Verna started working as a farmer field woman for Merrick County AAA for four years. With this money, we purchased our first tractor.

Paul was on Merrick County Soil Conservation board for twenty-five years. Both are active church members, holding various church positions in St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

In 1945, we moved to the Ed Smith farm for two years. Gordon graduated in 1945 and Shirley in 1946 from Central City Schools. Gordon also liked to farm as his father did, so he stayed home. Shirley worked as a dental assistant for two years.

In 1946, we purchased a farm from the Charles Watkins estate, taking possession in 1947. While living here, Shirley married Dale Fenster of Marquette in 1947. They have six children: Mrs. Donald (Cheryl) Gowin, Mrs. Jerry (Vickie) Waugh, Bradley, Randy, Curtis and Douglas. They also have six . grandchildren.

In 1951, Gordon was called to serve in the Army for two years, returning to the farm. In 1953, he married Jewell Hughes of Grand Island. They have five children: Mrs. Jerry (Debra) Beck, David, Denise, DeAnna and Darrin. They have three grandchildren.

In 1968, we purchased our home in Central City. Semi-retiring from the farm in 1969, we moved to town.

In 1976 we celebrated our fifieth anniversary. *Submitted by Verna Deichmann*

FRANK & MABEL DENMAN

Mabel Balmat Denman was a teacher in District #32 in Merrick County about 1898. She lived with her sister and brother-in-law, Frank and Stella Campbell northwest of Central City. She, Robert and Franklin Campbell drove to school by horse and buggy. She and her twin brother, George, were born in a sod house west of Alda.

On July 10, 1901, Frank Denman and Mabel Balmat were married in the Frank Campbell home. They were the parents of four children, namely Edna, Howard, Charles, and Donald, who died in infancy in 1904.

Edna attended Nebraska Central Academy during 1923 and 1924, and then entered Walnut Senior High in Grand Island, graduating in the spring of 1925. Edna attended Nebraska Central College during 1926, receiving her certificate to teach.

Howard graduated from the academy in 1926. He married Iva Slatterly and they farmed near Alda with his father for several years. He and Iva moved to Commerce City, Colorado, where they operated a filling station. They moved back to Nebraska in 1970, where he retired. He passed away October, 1980, in Grand Island.

Charles Denman attended Nebraska Central College for four years, graduating in 1940. He attended seminary in Omaha and went into the ministry in 1943. He married Kathleen Morris in 1947. At present, he is pastor of St. Luke's Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas. He has two sons, Morris and Stanley, also of Dallas.

Mabel Denman passed away in 1953. After the death of her husband, Clarence Fleming, Edna and her daughter, Jackie, moved to Alda to live with Edna's father. Mr. Denman passed away September 6, 1970.

Mr. and Mrs. Denman were active in their Federated Church and community in Alda. Mrs. Denman served as a Junior Sunday School Superintendent for many years. In early years, Mr. Denman was a band leader and organized an orchestra which included three Alda families. *Submitted by Edna Fleming*



Charles and Katherine Peterson at Denman home in Alda

ROBERT BAIRD DESCH

My father, Robert Baird Desch, and his family were lifetime residents of Central City. He and his wife, Williamette Williams Desch, now live in Salem, Oregon. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1980. The accompanying picture of the Desch's and their four children was taken at the anniversary celebration. Pictured in the back row are: Robert W. Desch, Portland, Oregon; James B. Desch, Salem, Oregon; Lucinda Desch Russell, Denver, Colorado. Front row: Williamette Williams Desch, Robert Baird Desch, and Williamette Desch Shafer, Lincoln, Nebraska. There are also seven grandchildren.



Robert Baird Desch Family 1980

The following are recollections of my father:

"My knowledge of the Baird family is rather sketchy. Their former home was Sparta, Illinois, which was the home of quite a few of the Baird and McDonald families. Robert G. Baird was of Scotch descent, and Mary Jane McDonald (his wife) of Protestant Irish. I'm not sure why they chose Merrick County unless it was because there were numerous relatives on the Wilson and Brown side in the Clarks area. Robert and Mary Jane made the trip west in a covered wagon, which also served as their home. Their daughter, Prudence, was born prior to the trip. Grandfather, with the help of friends and neighbors, managed to get in a few crops that year and, under other circumstances, could probably have weathered through the winter. A heavy infestation of locusts that year wiped out all the crops and they were forced to return to Sparta to spend the winter. During that time, my mother (Lucinda Ellen) was born. That next spring, the family returned to the homestead. Mother told me their first home was a dugout cave dug into the bank of Prairie Creek, and the covered wagon in which they came. Some time later, they erected a sod house and, with addition, this provided their home until a later frame house was erected. Under the Homestead Act, as I recall, any male was allowed a quarter section, but because Grandad was a Civil War veteran, he was allowed an additional quarter. All of the other nine children were born at this farm. It is at present owned and farmed by a grandson, Robert Baird."

Grandfather Baird's service in the Civil War was under General George McClellan. *Submitted by Williamette Desch Shafer*

WILLIAM S. DESCH FAMILY

William Seward Desch, a pioneer business man, moved to Central City, Merrick County, Nebraska in 1888, and established the W.S. Desch Monument Works. He was an apprentice for his father, Washington Finkel Desch, who was a marble cutter in Marshalltown, Iowa. W.S. Desch brought his four

sons into the business: Floyd and Harold who were in management and sales, and Robert and Seward who did designing, lettering, stencil cutting and sandblasting. Two grandsons continue in the monument business, Jim Desch (son of Robert) in Salem, Oregon, and William Desch, (son of Harold) in Grand Island, Nebraska.

In 1905 the family residence at 608 I Street was built for them on a parcel of land purchased from Bell Berryman. Later the Harold Desch, George Gregg and Robert Desch homes were built on this block of land.



W.S. Desch Home

Mr. Desch was a member of the Presbyterian Church, engaging in enterprising community affairs and philanthropic deeds. In 1911, he was commissioned by the Merrick County Historical Society to sculpt the Lone Tree Monument, depicted on the cover of this book, which now stands as a permanent historical monument of the lone cottonwood tree which pioneer travelers on the Mormon Trail and the Omaha-Fort Kearney Stage Route could see from twenty miles away. The town of Lone Tree was renamed Central City.

William S. Desch, the son of Washington F. Desch and Elizabeth Hess Desch, was born 10 December 1861, Mendota, Illinois and died 18 February 1942, Central City, Nebraska. On 20 October 1886, at Marshalltown, Iowa, he married Hannah Kleiberg (b. 1864 — d. 1899). Their children were: Roy W. (b. 17 February 1891 — d. 17 February 1892); Floyd G. (b. 27 March 1894 — d. 2 December 1957, married (1) Emiline Wulf (2) Agnes Spencer); Harold Wm. (b. 31 October 1896 — d. 17 June 1956, married Margaret Strand).

On 25 December 1900, Mr. Desch married Lucinda Baird Bice (b. 29 April 1871, Randolph City, Illinois, d. 30 September 1966, Palmer, Nebraska). Lucinda was the daughter of Mary Jane McDonald and Robert G. Baird, who were pioneer residents of Central City, Nebraska, and charter members of the Presbyterian Church, established in 1872. Their children were: (1) Wilma, b. 24 December 1901 — d. 22 April 1973, married to George Gregg in 1921, children Georgenne and Marilyn; (2) Thelma, b. 23 March 1903, married George Hill, children Dora Lu and Beverly; (3) Robert, b. 10 June 1905, married Williamette Williams 1929, children Williamette, Robert, Lucinda, Jim; (4) Seward, b. 20 September 1909, married Dorothy Throop 1933, no children.

The Desch ancestors immigrated to Lebanon County, Pennsylvania in the early 1700's from Germany, coming probably from the Palatine area.



William S. Desch Family

From there they imigrated to Illinois. *Submitted by W. Georgenne Hall (granddaughter), Palo Alto, California, Daughter of George and Wilma (Desch) Gregg*

GERALD & ELVIRA DEXTER

Gerald M. Dexter was born 2 May 1916 on the Whaley farm northeast of Pleasant Hill School to Pearl and M. C. Dexter. Gerald attended school at District #15 thru the eleventh grade. He went to Clarks High School his senior year and graduated in 1933. He played football, baseball, and boxed in the Golden Gloves in 1935. After one year at home, he attended Nebraska Central College at Central City in 1934 and 1935. He then farmed with his father. In March of 1937 they moved to the Black Farm in District #37.

Elvira E. Dexter was born May 8, 1916 in Merrick County, Nebraska to Boyd and Ella Ferguson. Dr. A. D. Brown was the attending physician (he later delivered her children). She lived with her parents in the Pierce Chapel neighborhood until her mother's death in 1918. Then she and her sister, Dorothy, lived with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Raecke until their father's remarriage to Pearl Wait in 1923. She attended District #33 school through the eighth grade and attended Central City High School living with the Walter Raecke family. She graduated in 1933. She attended Nebraska Central College for two years, then taught District #25 for three years.

Gerald and Elvira Dexter were married in May 1938. They farmed in partnership with M. C. Dexter. They have two children, Alan (born 1941) and Joan (born 1944). Alan is an Extension Sugarbeet Weed Control Specialist at North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota. His wife, Fran, and he have two daughters, Dawn and Gail. Joan (Mrs. James Deaver) lives near West Point, Nebraska, where her husband teaches. They have a son, Jeffrey, and a daughter, Jolene.

In 1955, Gerald and Elvira bought the "Holm Farm" in the Warm Slough Neighborhood in District #37 dissolving the farming partnership. Here they still live having spent all their lives in Merrick County, Nebraska.

They are active members of the Methodist Church and have served their community on many boards and committees. *Submitted by E. Dexter*

HAROLD DEXTER FAMILY



Harold Dexter Family

Harold Dexter, the son of Lloyd and Mabel (Martin) Dexter, was born August 23, 1932 at the family home located one mile east and one mile north of Pleasant Hill (District #15) school, at Clarks, Nebraska. He attended District #15, and graduated from Clarks High School in 1951. He entered the Army January 15, 1953, and upon completing training in Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, spent seventeen months in Korea.

Harold and I, Lorraine (Mangelsen) Dexter, were married June 4, 1953, at Pierce Chapel Methodist Church, Clarks, Nebraska.

I was born June 30, 1932 to John and Valborg (Jensen) Mangelsen in Wathena, Kansas. Being native Nebraskans, my parents moved back to Hamilton County, Nebraska in 1937. In 1938, my parents moved to a farm one and one half miles west of Clarks which is located directly across the road from Emil Wruble. The house has since been moved to the Harvey Phelps' farm to become the home of the Larry Phelps family.

I shall never forget my first day at the Clarks Public School as a shy, frightened newcomer. Ethel Sweet, having noon hour duty, recognized my plight, and befriended me by walking down town with me, and treating me to a nickel ice cream cone at Copeland's Drug Store. Her love and kindness extended to me has always held a special place in my heart.

In 1947, my parents moved into the Pierce Chapel community, making their home on the Roy Inbody farm located one half mile east and one half mile south of Pierce Chapel.

After graduating from Clarks in 1950, I attended Nebraska Central College at Central City for the summer session, and began a teaching career of eight years teaching in Districts #21, #25, #37, and #8. My starting salary was $150 a month, and I was complimented to receive a $5 a month raise at Christmas. Besides teaching, my duties also included janitorial duties of starting the fire in the coal burning stove, pumping water and general cleaning.

In 1970, I began working part time as an assistant assessor. Upon the retirement of Assessor Ruth Tyler, I was elected County Assessor, taking office in 1979.

During Harold's teen years, he worked for neighboring farmers. It was while he was working for Don Grafe in 1949 that he and I began dating. He worked for Reimers' John Deere Company after graduating from High School, and again after being discharged from Service. He later worked a short time at the Ocoma Food Plant before it closed. March 1, 1956, he became employed by Grosshans Incorporated where he is still presently employed as machinery service and set-up man.

We moved in to our first home at 1106 16th Street in June 1955, and moved to our present home at 1516 10th Avenue in November, 1966.

We have four children — Ed, born June 6, 1959, graduated from Central City in 1977, and graduated from Southeast Community College in September, 1979. He is presently working for the Farmers Co-op at Clarks. Ted, born September 30, 1960, graduated from Central City in 1979 and presently works for Dan Grafe. Angela, born February 23, 1962, graduated from Central City in 1980, is attending Kearney State College, and works part time at the Dairy Queen. Amy, born November 6, 1966, is completing the eighth grade and enjoys sports, babysitting, cooking, and animals.

Through our involvement as members of the Pierce Chapel U.M. Church, as well as school and community activities, we have been blessed with many wonderful friendships and experiences which continually make us proud to be a part of Merrick County's Heritage. *Submitted by Lorraine Dexter.*

LEROY & PARNELLA DEXTER

Leroy Dexter was the son of Claude and Pearl (Martin) Dexter. His parents were farmers. My parents were Samuel and Gladys (Tivey) Wallace. My father worked for the Union Pacific Railroad.

Leroy and I were both born in Merrick County in 1918, graduated from Clarks High School, and were married in 1939 at Clarks. With borrowed machinery, we farmed east of Silver Creek.

In March, 1941, we moved to a farm southeast of Clarks. We had no machinery, but an understanding banker loaned us two hundred dollars to buy a team of horses, a cream separator and a wood heating stove. Our first child, Jerry, was born that spring.

In December of that year, war was declared with Japan. Gas was rationed and the slogan, "Is This Trip Really Necessary?", appeared on car and shop windows. We were allowed two pair of shoes per year for each person, and sugar was almost impossible to obtain. Ingenious housewives switched to honey and syrup for baking and canning, but the results were often disappointing. We were put on a waiting list at stores for clothing made of denim, so



Leroy and Parnella Dexter

our work clothes were patched and repatched. We had emerged from the depression of the 30's into an era where consumer goods were in short supply.

The summers, during the 30's and 40's, were hot and miserable. Every day we watched the west for rain clouds to save our crops and give us relief from the heat.

Summer threshing was a combination of hard work and neighborhood sociability. During the threshing run, we cooked a noon meal for as many as twenty hungry men and took a lunch to the field both morning and afternoon. Although the men enjoyed the comaraderie of working together, the women were relieved when the crew moved to the next farm.

Our daughter, Kathleen, was born in 1943, and son, Jon, in 1944. The children attended District #5 school, a mile north of our farm. Later, this district merged with District #50.

Our farm bordered the Platte River and was quite remote from the neighboring farmsteads. For this reason, the R.E.A. was reluctant to run electricity to our farm, but in 1949, the power was turned on, and I joyously put away the kerosene lamps.

Life became a little easier with the advent of electricity. Farming became more profitable and prices improved. In 1964, we began our cattle feeding operation. Our profits from the farm were invested in machinery and equipment.

Two years later, the farm was sold and we moved to the Henry Stubbe farm east of Central City. In 1973 we bought our farm eight miles north of Central City where we hope to live out our years. Merrick county, in the beautiful and fertile Platte Valley, will continue to be a great place to live. *Submitted by Parnella Dexter*

LLOYD J. DEXTER FAMILY

I was born October 8, 1891 to Hiram Marcus Dexter and Katie James on a farm my father bought in 1874. I was one of six children. My father built a two bedroom house and set out cedar trees, some of which are still there.

My father was born August 7, 1854 in Pennsylvania. He called himself a Pennsylvania Dutchman. My mother was born December 23, 1863 in Maryland and was a school teacher. Her parents were from England. They were married August 1862 in Columbus, Nebraska.

In the summer of 1895 after the corn was layed by, Dad took us back to Morristown, Minnesota to visit Grandma, Catherine (Reece) Dexter Smith. We went in a surrey, traveling days and camping nights at farm homes along the way.

Discouraged with farming in 1898, Dad had a sale, sold the farm machinery and rented the land. Then we moved to Turner, Oregon where we cut trees for a living. In 1900 the family returned to our Nebraska farm.

When five years old and my first day at school in District #15, Minnie Kellogg, daughter of a homestead family, let me sit with my older brother. They gave me a pencil and tablet. I dropped the pencil so crawled down to get it when someone pulled me out and put me back on the seat and said, "don't get off your seat during school hours." Everyone laughed and I didn't forget.

In 1907 with the help of Fred Marsh I started my ninth grade in the Clarks School. Vincent Douglas let me go upstairs with him as I had never been there before. I graduated in 1911. I drove a horse and buggy six miles to high school. In 1912 I went to a mechanics school in Omaha but decided it was not my line so stuck to farming.

My brother in Montana wanted me to homestead with him so in 1915 I shipped a car loaded with machinery, two cows and two horses to Montana. I took a half section and two years later took another half section. Everyone just let their cattle roam on the range so I cut posts on the Cedar Hill and began fencing my section.

After five years of drought I decided to come back to Nebraska to farm Dad's land.

In 1921 I married Mable Martin, daughter of Frederick and Mary Jeanette Nesbit Martin at the farm home of my brother and her sister, Claud and Pearl Dexter.

We had six children, Donald, Robert, Marion, William, Harold and Dorothy Jean.

After many years of ill health Mable passed away in November 1944. It was a struggle to keep going with six children to care for and the dry years of the thirties but we managed with hard work and determination.

In 1965 I married Edith Lemons Leece. We moved into Central City. We enjoyed many things together, going to school and church activities along with Senior Citizens activities until Edith's death in 1980. *Submitted by Lloyd Dexter*

H.M. (MARK) DEXTER

Hiram Marcus Dexter was born in 1854 in Wayne County, Pennsylvania. The family moved to Morristown, Minnesota where they built the "Delaware House," a hotel. Hiram's father, Joseph, died in 1863. His mother remarried in 1864. Hiram and his brother, Clarence, ran away from home and joined a wagon train. They ended up in Texas — working at the Goodnight Ranch as Mrs. Goodnight's helpers and later as cowboys. They trailed cattle through this area and on north. One winter they stayed near Silver Creek where he met Katherine James (born 1863 in Maryland), who was a school teacher. Her father ran the grist mill in Silver Creek. They married in 1882 and farmed north and east of Clarks, Nebraska. Born to this union was Claude (M.C.) in 1884, Kenneth 1890, Lloyd 1891, Paul 1894, Dorothy (Mrs. Arthur Gregg) 1897, and Cedric 1902.



The Hiram Dexter Family

After 1910 Hiram moved to Montana near Miles City as he felt Nebraska was getting too thickly populated. He bought a farm there. Katherine died of a goiter operation in 1924. She is buried at the Pierce Chapel Cemetery in Merrick County.

Hiram became ill and returned to live with his son, Claude and family, his last year. He passed away in 1932 and is also buried at the Pierce Chapel Cemetery. *Submitted by E. Dexter*



Mr. and Mrs. Claude Dexter

M.C. DEXTER

Claude was born near Clarks, Nebraska in 1884 to Hiram and Catherine Dexter. He received his early schooling in the Pleasant Hill District #15 School and Clarks High School. He had a year of schooling at the Grand Island Business College.

Pearl Martin was born south of Belgrade, Nebraska in 1888. She and her family moved to Fullerton in 1895 and she received her education there. She began teaching at the age of sixteen and taught nine years, her last school being District #15, Merrick County, after she was married.

Pearl and Claude were married in 1911. Their children are Gerald, born 1916; Leroy, born 1918; and Ruth Lutes Martenson, born 1929.

Claude's life centered around farming. He was a Past Master of the Masonic Lodge in Clarks. He served as a school board member and was active in the Methodist Church.

Pearl was also active in the church belonging to the Women's Society of Christian Service. She was Past Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star. Pearl and Claude died in a car accident in 1964 and are buried at the Pierce Chapel Cemetery. *Submitted by E. Dexter*

WILLIAM E. DEXTER FAMILY

Bill and I (Marilyn) were married April 11, 1948 after dating during our high school days at Clarks. We were both born in Merrick County and still live just a few miles from our childhood homes. Bill attended grade school at Pleasant Hill.

Our parents were Lloyd and Mable (Martin) Dexter and Frank and Veda (Pritts) Sweet.

Before our marriage, I worked in Grand Island for the Bell Telephone Company. Bill started farming right out of high school. Besides farming our own land, he worked out for various neighbors for many years.

We raise popcorn, corn, alfalfa, and some wheat. Cattle, hogs, and sheep have also been a big part of our farming operation.

In 1949, we purchased the eighty acre farm we now live on and a few years later built a new home. We also bought Bill's home place, Section 16-15-5, which had originally been purchased from the State of Nebraska in 1898 by his grandfather, Hiram Dexter.

Our six children have been the center of our lives. Renae, Ronda, and Robin all attended Mary Lanning School of Nursing at Hastings.

Renae Lynn married Terry L. Schmid of Columbus. Terry was in the Air Force at that time, so they were stationed in Panama for two years and then at Ogden, Utah where they decided to make their home after his discharge. He is now a millwright for Horsley Materials Handler System. Renae is supervisor of nursing at Davis North Medical Center at Laton, Utah. They have two children, Tandra Nicole, six, and Trent William, three.

Ronda Kay married Robert Kinsey of Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Bob is a detective lieutenant for the Scottsbluff Police Department. Ronda is a professional nurse associate for Internal Medicine Group of Scottsbluff. They have one son, Robert Jordan, three and a daughter, Jennifer Elizabeth, born this year.

When Robin Joy married Donald Hathorne, we not only gained a new son-in-law, but a four year old grandson, Danny as well. On January 1, 1981,



William E. Dexter Family

Robin and Don presented us with twin grandsons, Derek William and Donald Lee. This was the first set of twins in the family for a number of years. Robin is employed at St. Francis Medical Center in the coronary unit and Don works for Lou-Platte Communications of Wood River, Nebraska. Their home is in Cairo, Nebraska.

All three of our sons live at Clarks at this time. We were happy when Randy decided he wanted to farm with Bill after working for Whiteds in Fullerton for a year.

Randy married Debra Douglas of Clarks. They have two daughters, Sarah Christine, four and Anne Melissa, two. Debra is the fourth nurse in our family and works part time at Annie Jeffries Memorial Hospital in Osceola.

Ryan Troy and Royce Kent are still at home. Ryan will graduate from high school this year and Royce is a sophomore.

Our social life centers around school and church activities. It has been a good life, living on a farm in central Nebraska. We appreciate having so many good neighbors, friends, and relatives. *Written by Marilyn Dexter*

JOHN & ANNA DICKMAN

John Dickman was born in Germany on June 10, 1879 to Peter and Maggie Dickman. When he was five years old the family immigrated to this country and settled on land southeast of St. Libory, Nebraska. Mr. Dickman attended the district school near his parents farm and completed his schooling at Zion Lutheran School in Worms, Nebraska.

He was baptized in the Lutheran faith in Germany and was confirmed at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church at Worms, Nebraska. John Dickman was one in a family of six brothers and five sisters. Their names were Lena, Mollie, Minnie, Mary, Annie, Maggie, Harry, Henry, John, Richard (deceased) three infants (deceased).



Mr. and Mrs. John Dickman

John Dickman and Anna Bosselman were married September 13, 1905. Anna Bosselman Dickman was born December 8, 1888 to John and Gesche (Richters) Bosselman, St. Libory. She had one sister, Clara, and two brothers, Carl and George.

John and Anna began farming in the Leuthauser farm near St. Libory. From there they moved to the Frank Glause farm south and west of Worms. A number of years later they purchased a farm one half mile north and one half mile east of Worms.

In 1923 they purchased the Meves farm on the south edge of Worms. They also had a cream and egg route starting out picking up the cream and eggs by horses and a wagon. Later they bought a Ford Model and chain driven truck with solid rubber tires from John Horstman living east of Worms. Its speed was from ten to fifteen miles an hour.

In 1938 they purchased the home of Louie Helzer, Worms, Nebraska living there until their retirement in 1948. They purchased a home on East Fifth Street in Grand Island, later moving to a home on North Clark and 615 N. Eddy Street and buying a home at 912 North Pine, Grand Island. Their family consisted of two sons and three daughters: Leonard, Chapman, Ne (deceased), Laurence, Worms, Nebraska, Hulda Dickman, Grand Island, Milda Shipman, Grand Island, Edna Bell, Grand Island, infant (deceased). They had ten grandchildren, twenty-four great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren.

John and Anna Dickman celebrated their fiftieth anniversary on September 13, 1955. John Dickman died April 29, 1957 and was buried in Worms Cemetery and Anna Dickman died July 15, 1977 and was buried in Worms Cemetery. *Submitted by Mrs. Leonard Dickman*

LEONARD & ANNA DICKMAN

Leonard Dickman was born August 27, 1906 to John and Anna (Bosselman) Dickman in Merrick County. He received his schooling at Worms and was baptized and confirmed at the Zion Lutheran School at Worms.

Anna (Shipman) Dickman was born April 16, 1908 to William and Whilemina (Minnie) (Hargens) Shipman, Hall County. She received her schooling in Hall and Merrick Counties. She was baptized and confirmed at Messiah Lutheran Church, 7th and Locust, Grand Island. She had seven brothers and four sisters as follows: Peter, Veterans Home, Grand Island, Rev. John Shipman, Albion, Olga Dickman, Worms, Anna Dickman, Chapman, Albert Shipman, Grand Island, Herbert Shipman, Grand Island, Alvina Shipman, Central City, Linda Spiehs, Alda Harry Shipman, Grand Island, Henry Shipman, Grand Island, Ervin Shipman (deceased) infant son (deceased).

Leonard had three brothers and three sisters and one infant brother as follows: Leonard, Chapman (deceased), Laurence Dickman, Worms, Hulda Dickman, Grand Island, Milda Shipman, Grand Island, Edna Bell, Grand Island, infant son (deceased).

After Leonard and his brother, Laurence, were through with their schooling, they helped their father with the farm work and also with the cream and egg route.

On September 4, 1927 Leonard Dickman and Anna Shipman were married and settled down on an acreage north and east of Worms. Leonard continued to work on the family farm and on the cream route. Later on purchasing it from his father in 1929.

Leonard started farming in the early 1930's going through the drought and depression raising hogs, wheat and corn. Leonard sold a load of hogs one morning depositing the check in the St. Libory State Bank. The Bank closed its door in the afternoon, tieing up all the deposits.

In the early 30's all the farming was done with horses. Tractors came a few years later. Leonard's father put down a well in the 40's. Electricity came about 1940 along with the electric refrigerator and television.



Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Dickman

In 1940, Leonard, Anna and family moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan and worked at the King Seely Factory making parts for airplanes. Leonard also worked at the Jim Hickey Service Station.

In 1943, Leonard and family moved back to Nebraska and rented his father's farm. He farmed until 1946 when Leonard and Anna bought a house at 115 West 8th, Grand Island, selling out and moving to Puente, California where he worked at a 71 Service Station in 1956, moving back to Grand Island.

Leonard and Anna bought the Lone Tree Service Station, Chapman, from his brother, Laurence, and operated that until their retirement in 1971 after which a daughter, Lavonne and Dennis Powers, her husband, operated it until 1977.

After Leonard's retirement. he worked three days a week at the Third City Livestock Sale Barn, Grand Island until March 7, 1979. Leonard died April 10, 1979 and was buried m Memorial Cemetery, Grand Island. On May 1, 1979, the Lone Tree Service Station was sold to the Western Oil Company of Grand Island. Anna continues to live in the home in Chapman. Leonard and Anna had a family of one son and three daughters as follows: Marvin (deceased), Lavonne Powers, Whittier, California, Alberta Oberschulte and Patricia Swartz, both of Chapman. They had ten grandchildren and one great grandchild. *Submitted by Anna Dickman*

FRED DINGES FAMILY

My father, Frederick C. Dinges, was born in Monroe, Wisconsin, October 14, 1873 to Andrew and Elizabeth Dinges. He was the youngest in a family of thirteen children. On January 11, 1900, he was married to Edith May Williams at Clarno, Wisconsin.



Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Dinges and Marie — 1909

My mother, Edith Williams, was born April 7, 1879 in Twin Grove, Wisconsin to Hiram Atmer and Henrietta Start Williams. A brother, Leonard, died at the age of fourteen. They lived in Clarno, Wisconsin where my grandfather operated a small grocery store and my mother was postmaster. The store building is still standing and in use.

My grandmother's parents were Henry and Elizabeth Miller Start. Henry Start came to America as a baby from England and Elizabeth Miller came from Scotland at age eleven. They were married December 12, 1850 and had seven daughters. They moved to Wisconsin from New York and in 1885 to Nebraska, settling on a farm west of Central City.

I was born September 4, 1904 to Frederick and Edith Dinges in Monroe, Wisconsin. In 1905, they moved to Central City, Nebraska and started farming on the Robert Start farm, purchasing the farm in 1908, remaining there until my father's death on May 29, 1955.

Hiram Atmer and Henrietta Williams moved to Central City and operated a grocery store in partnership with Charles Huxford and Alice Start Huxford, a sister of Mrs. Williams. Quoting from Celia Black, "Mr. Huxford had a twinkle about his face that made his eyes disappear when he smiled. Mr. Williams had beautiful white hair and mustache and I loved him because he seemed like the grandfather I didn't ever get to know." Grandma died October 10, 1933 and Grandpa died March 11, 1950.

I attended District #48 School, located on the southeast corner of our farm.

My father and mother were both charter members of the Christian Church. Father was a member of the board of directors who started the Central City Cooperative Creamery and also served on the school board of District #48.

I graduated from Central City High School, attended Cotner College and taught in the Pleasant Hill, Clarks and Central City schools. In August 1929, I married Mark D. Bock of David City, Nebraska. Mark graduated from Cotner College, did graduate work at Colorado State University at Fort Collins. He coached at Red Cloud and Silver Creek and was superintendent at Silver Creek, Oxford and Blue Hill. Silver Creek was our first home. He served as president of the State School Board in 1952-53. In 1957, we moved to Norfolk where Mark was counselor with the State Rehabilitation Department until he retired in 1971.

We had two sons, Judson and Donald. Jud married Ramona Larson. They live in Omaha. They have four children, Laurie, Cindy, Jud and Jerry. Jud is Maintenance Control Supervisor at the Post office. Don married Jeanie Smith of Blair where they now live. They have two little girls, Jessica and Jennifer. He is a Senior Structural Designer for a power plant engineering firm in Omaha.

Mother stayed in Central City until 1965, then moved to Norfolk to live with Mark and me. She died August 7, 1978 at age ninty-nine.

Mark died January 27, 1975. I continue to live in my home in Norfolk. I enjoy my visits to Central City and meeting old friends. *By Marie Dinges Bock*

HENRY DITTMER FAMILY

Henry Dittmer was born in Germany on March 18, 1857, the oldest of five brothers and three sisters. He married Marguerite Kohl at Minden, Iowa in 1881. There were eleven children born to this couple. His wife, Marguerite, died in 1896. He and his children moved to the Clarks area in 1897 settling four miles east of Clarks near the Platte River.

One often wonders what causes actions on the part of people. In this case, speculations and research by talking to some of the ancestors, reveals it may have been a combination of grief, wishing to get away from familiar surroundings the couple had shared. Plus the fact the land in Iowa at that time may not have been like he was used to farming, and the urge to find better land, prompted the move.

In 1898, he married Maggie Juhl and three children were borh to this union. Including the six children born to Maggie from a previous marriage there were now a grand total of twenty living children in this family.

One can readily grasp the significance of the phrase "population explosion" from the growth of this family. However, this was the trend in those early days of settlement and growth of the Central Platte River Valley which has subsequently come to be known as the "Bread Basket" of the nation if not the world.

An interesting side note to the story of this families entry into the United States is the fact his daughter, Dorothy Mustard, (nee Dorothy Dittmer) recalls her father left Germany to escape the mandatory military training required in Germany at that time. (Shades of our youth during our years of conflict in Viet Nam). She also recalls that Mr. Dittmer was able to subsequently bring his own mother to this country from Germany.

Dorothy Mustard is the only living member of this large family at this time. She now resides at Bethesda Care Center at Central City, Nebraska. *Submitted by (daughter of Dorothy) Darlene Danklesen*

HENRY & MARGARET DITTMER

Henry Dittmer was born March 18, 1857 at Prosforf, Schleswig Holstein, Germany. He had married Margaret (Maggie) Kohl in 1881. They lived in Iowa. His wife died in 1897. To Henry and Margaret Kohl ten children were born:

Charles Dittmer, November 19, 1881, died 1938 Herman Dittmer, June 3, 1883, died 1952; John Dittmer, twins, died; Meta Dittmer, March 18, 1888, died; Henry Dittmer, March 4, 1886, died; Otto Dittmer, September 3, 1889, died June 21, 1967; Emma Dittmer, April 14, 1891, died; Hugo Dittmer, March 5, 1893, killed in World War I, Ella Dittmer, September 5, 1894, died; Dorathy Dittmer, November 27, 1895, lives at Bethesda Care Center at Central City, Nebraska.

Margaret (Maggie) Scharff Juhl Dittmer was born May 2, 1861 at Schleswig Holstein, Germany to Gotlieb and Maria Scharff. She had one sister, Catherina Mangelsen in the U.S. and five sisters in Germany. Maggie married Peter Juhl in Germany in 1881. They came to the United States on their honeymoon, and settled in Grand Island, Nebraska. Mr. Juhl passed away May 9, 1895. To Peter and Maggie six children were born:

Mary Juhl, September 2, 1882, buried Portage, Wisconsin; Tillie Juhl, September 25, 1884, buried Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Herman Juhl, September 23, 1886, buried Burlington, Iowa; John Juhl, April 8, 1891, buried at Beatrice, Nebraska; Elmer Juhl, April 30, 1893, buried at Beatrice, Nebraska; Edward Juhl, April 8, 1895, buried at Genoa, Nebraska. All children were baptized in the Lutheran Church in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Henry Dittmer married Margaret (Maggie) Scharff Juhl in 1898 in the Lutheran Church in Grand Island. They farmed east of Clarks. Henry passed away August 20, 1926. To Henry and Maggie three children were born at Clarks.



Henry and Margaret (Maggie) Dittmer

Anna Dittmer, September 28, 1899, died; Minnie Dittmer, May 5, 1900, August 4, 1924; Martha Dittmer, May 29, 1902, May 14, 1967. All were baptized and confirmed as Lutherans at Clarks, Nebraska in District #7 where services were held weekly.

In 1910 Henry and Maggie made a trip to Germany to visit their homeland. They built their retirement home on their farm. After Mr. Dittmer's passing; Maggie's grandson, Francis Bladt lived with her until he graduated. Her daughter Martha, married to Hayes Randall rented the farm and cared for her in later years. Her granddaughter, Lois Randall stayed with her until Maggie passed away April 23, 1951. She was a member of the Congregational Church. Maggie enjoyed working with her flowers and was loved by all who knew her. She was a woman of great courage. *Submitted by Granddaughter Lois Randall Ulferts*

DITTMER — JUNCTION RANCH

Claus Jochim (C.J.) Dittmer was born in Prosdorf, Germany, October 29, 1867, into a family of twelve children. At age fifteen, he came to Pottawattamie County, Iowa, to escape military training, but he brought with him a tremendous sense of American patriotism for everything that the flag stands for.

On March 14, 1891, he married Elizabeth



C.J. and Elizabeth Dittmer

Blumer. She was born January 13, 1868, at Davenport, Iowa. They owned and operated a farm near Shelby, Iowa. Nine children were born there. The news of the good life in Nebraska came to them, and they decided that Clarks would be a good place to raise their family. In the spring of 1907, the family bought a farm for $50.00 an acre, northeast of Clarks, from George Key, known as Junction Ranch, formerly called the Hartwell Ranch. C.J. and nephew, Henry, drove the livestock 140 miles. The family followed by train. Two more children were born here; one died at birth. Children of C.J. and Elizabeth:

John, deceased, married Ferne Brown and returned to the family farm in Iowa where she still lives.

Fritz, deceased, married Hazel West and farmed northwest of Clarks. She lives in Clarks now.

Herman, deceased, married Ruth Brown, also deceased. They farmed in Polk County.

William, married Bernita Fox and farmed northwest of Clarks. Retired of farm.

Walter, fatally injured in farm accident.

Edward, farmed Junction Ranch, retired in Clarks.

Elmer, married Vella Heinemeier, deceased, also farmed Junction Ranch and retired in Clarks.

Raymond, married Mildred McLean and farmed south of Clarks, retiring in Clarks.

Clara, married John Boss, deceased, farmed north of Clarks. Later married Fred Boss and moved to Columbus. He died and she remains there.

Lydia, lived at Junction Ranch until retiring in Clarks, now of Bethesda Care Center, Central City.

C.J. was a member of District #7 school board twenty years. Knowing the oppression of an unfree country, he participated in local politics. He was Merrick County Supervisor eighteen years. Due to his foresight many bridges and county buildings were built, including Clarks Library where his daughter-in-law is now librarian.

For twenty years, C.J. farmed. He died December 6, 1937, on the farm. Son Edward farmed the place until being called to World War II; then Elmer, a widower, and small daughter took over.

Elizabeth, mother, died June 30, 1944, leaving Elmer with daughter, Edward, and Lydia on the family farm until 1970 when they retired in Clarks.

The grandchildren of C.J. and Elizabeth will always remember when the banks of the river rang with laughter, and stillness as we gazed in wonder at the Overland Trail ruts; remembering stories of Indian and white man meeting to trade at this spot. We listened to legends of Indians; Yellow Tail, whose grave is supposed to be nearby. We wondered at the story of the horse thief who was hung on a small hill at the Platte. We searched for the truth of a rumor that one of Clarks' early pioneer's remains were buried south of District #7 school in an unmarked grave. *Submitted by Ivan Dittmer, Grandson*

KENNETH DITTMER FAMILY

Kenneth F. Dittmer has lived in Merrick County all his life. He was born April 24, 1928, to Fritz and Hazel (West) Dittmer, on the place now owned by Rod Scherer, four miles north of Clarks. The family moved to the Pleasant Hill community, where he received his early education. His father, Fritz, passed away September 9, 1978, at the Bethesda Care Center, at the age of eighty-four. Kenneth and Dolores (Fritz) were married October 22, 1948. Dolores was born August 22, 1932, at Stromburg, Nebraska, the daughter of Walter and Marie (Schlondorf) Fritz. With her parents and only brother, Hubert, they moved to Merrick County in the fall of 1939. They farmed the place now owned by the Harold Beck family, then moved to the Meta Key farm south of Clarks. Walter passed away August 22, 1950, of a sudden heart attack. Hubert continued to farm the land.

After their marriage in 1948, Kenneth and Dolores moved to a farm north of Clarks, formerly the Scott farm. While living there, their only son, Gerald Walter, was born May 4, 1950. In the spring of 1951, they purchased a farm located two and one-half miles north of Clarks from Art Yonkey. They have farmed here for the past thirty years. During these years, three daughters were born: Cheryl Marie in 1951, Christine Kay in 1954, and Karen Sue in 1962.

Gerald married Kathleen Hays December 21, 1968, and lives just east of the home place, formerly owned by Gordon Mace. They farm and raise cattle and hogs. They have three children, Michael Patrick, born October 15, 1969, Scott William, born April 6, 1971, and Kari Beth, born May 21, 1976.

Cheryl married Scott Euler on April 5, 1975, and lives in Cookeville, Tennessee, where Scott is production manager at the Russell Stovers Candy Company. They have two daughters, Michelle Marie, born April 9, 1977, and Jennifer Lynne, born October 29, 1980.

Christine married Joe Carlson December 12, 1971, and lives three and one-half miles north of Clarks on the farm formerly owned by Katie Zelazny. They farm and raise hogs and cattle. They have three children, Kimberly Colleen, born July 4, 1972, Amy Dee, born October 9, 1976, and David Robert, born June 9, 1979.

Their youngest daughter, Karen, now a freshman at the University of Nebraska, will continue her education in the medical field, entering Bryan Memorial School of Nursing in June of 1981.

The family are members of the St. Pauls Lutheran Church at Central City, Nebraska. *Submitted by Dolores Dittmer*

OTTO DITTMER FAMILY

Otto August Dittmer was born September 1, 1889, in Minden, Iowa, to Henry and Marguerite Dittmer. The family came to Clarks, Nebraska in 1897.

Mary Wilhelmena Hansen was born July 31, 1897, to John and Catharina Hansen on a farm near Genoa, Nebraska.



Otto and Mary Dittmer Family

Otto and Mary were united in marriage June 4, 1919, at Fullerton, Nebraska.

They settled on a farm four miles east of Clarks, where they resided until 1965 when they moved into a new home in Clarks. Otto passed away June 21, 1967, and was buried at the Clarks Cemetery. Mary still resides in the same home and will celebrate her eighty-fourth birthday July 31, 1981.

Otto was a hard working farmer raising corn, wheat, oats, and hay. He also raised cattle and hogs. He was always willing to help a neighbor when needed. He was a quiet man, and lived for his family.

He served on the District #7 school board, Clarks Farmers Union board, and Lions Club.

Mary worked hard and helped with work outside when needed. They raised seven children. The family suffered hardship years during the drought of the 1930's.

Otto and Mary's children were all very hard workers, and the love of family and their faith kept them going. The children all attended School District #7.

Growing up as teenagers and young adults, ice skating, roller skating, dances at Havens, hunting, fishing, and movies in Clarks provided most of their recreation.

Born to Otto and Mary at their farm home were seven children: Lilly Marguerite, December 30, 1920, married Rex Arnold Graham December 19, 1941. They had seven children: Gary Lee, Judy Ann (Stankoski), Ronnie Rex, Narka Kay (Lisko), Sindy Sue (Liss), Todd Allen. Lilly and Rex live in Silver Creek, Nebraska.

Teddie Martin, February 18, 1923, married Mary Lucile Ferguson December 7, 1947. They had four children: Robert Ray, Dick Lee, Danny Joe (deceased), Kathie Jean. Ted and Mary live near Osceola.

Ruth Marie, September 2, 1927, married Wesley Donald Jones October 4, 1946. They had three children: Lonna Kay (Flodman), Connie Jo (Pollard), and Pamela Rae (Van Winkle). Ruth and Wesley live near Osceola.

Robert Charles, November 19, 1929 (deceased January 27, 1949.)

Betty Kathryn, January 14, 1933, married Arnold Herman Carlson November 17, 1950. They had three children: Joey Arnold, Jimmy Lee, Jerry Allan. Arnold passed away November 27, 1968. Betty lives near Clarks.

Jackie Dean, October 12, 1936, married Laverna Margie Bartholomew February 6, 1965. They had three children: Thomas Lee, Kenneth Dean and Billy Joe. Jack and Laverna live near Clarks on the home place.

Dixie Lee, March 21, 1940, married Dennis Anthony Jasper October 18, 1958. They had four children: Darla Dee (Boroviak), Donnie Lee, Deadra Dawn, and Dean Otto. Dixie and Dennis live in Clarks.

Mary has twenty-three grandchildren and twenty-eight great grandchildren. There are seventy-seven of us when we have a good old family get-together. *Submitted by Dixie Jasper*

RAYMOND DITTMER FAMILY

Raymond Dittmer was born on what was known as the old "Hartwell" farm east of Clarks on August 28, 1909, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Dittmer. He attended School District #7 and went on to graduate from Clarks High School in 1928. He was married to Mildred McLean at Council Bluffs, Iowa, on December 24, 1935.

Mildred was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Verne McLean and was born on June 22, 1916. She attended Pleasant Hill School through the eleventh grade, and graduated from Clarks High School in 1933.

Raymond and Mildred started farming in 1936 on a farm owned by Doctor Douglas, and located two miles south of Clarks along the Platte River. Here they raised their family and lived for forty years, before he retired and moved to Clarks in 1976.

Raymond served six years as treasurer of Clarks School Board during the controversial years of rebuilding and redistricting.

Mildred worked in the Clarks Post Office as substitute clerk for ten years, being retired in 1978. In 1977 she was named librarian at Clarksville Township Library.

They were the parents of one daughter and three sons, all of whom graduated from Clarks High School.

Ronna was born December 2, 1936. She went to Omaha in 1955 and still resides there. She is now married to William Graskowiak, son of the late Victor Graskowiak of Omaha, Nebraska. She has two children, Polly eighteen, and Tom seventeen.

Lanny was born January 12, 1939. He also went to Omaha. He married Gaynelle Wilson, daughter of Richard H. Wilson of Omaha. In 1968, they moved to Central City, Nebraska, where he was partner and first administrator in the Parkview Nursing Home, now known as Bethesda. He remained with the nursing home profession and is now living at Lansing, Michigan, and associated with Continental Care. They have two sons, Jeff, twenty, and Kevin, seventeen, and an adopted Korean daughter, Melissa, nine.

Jim was born November 1, 1943, and married Linda Chadwick, daughter of Stanley Chadwick of Central City. He has been working at Strobel Industries, Inc., for several years and is now shop foreman. They have three daughters, Robyne sixteen, Michele fourteen, Stacey eleven, and a son, Chad, seven. Another son died at birth. They reside at Clarks.

Dick was born May 10, 1946. He married Rachel Taylor, daughter of Orville Taylor of Genoa, Nebraska. Dick was killed in an automobile accident on August 21, 1971, while on duty with the National Guard. He had one son, Scott, who is ten years old. *Submitted by Mildred Dittmer*

WILLIAM DITTMER FAMILY

William is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Dittmer and from a family of eleven children. Bernita, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Guy Fox is from a family of ten children. These families were Merrick County residents. We met over an old setting hen. I was living at home with my parents, which was just across the road from Mr. and Mrs. John Boss, Bill's sister and brother-in-law. I was running two incubators and needed some hens to help raise my chickens. Since we didn't have enough at home, John told me to come over and get a couple of theirs. One evening I went over to pick them up. Bill and his brother, Walter, were there visiting with his sister and husband. The brothers were bachelors and were ready to leave for home, so they took me and my clucking hens to my home. The following weekend Bill came over and asked me to go with him to a birthday yard party for Mildred McLean, who eventually became our sister-in-law. We were married at Columbus, Nebraska February 1, 1933. I moved in the bachelor home where they had been farming for six years. This farm was known as the Mangelson farm, now owned by Bob Herman. Two children, Ivan and Leona, were born at this home. In 1940 we moved to John Kohl's farm east of Clarks. This is now owned by Glen Ferguson. We lived there ten years. Our third child, a son, Francis, was born during that time. Ivan and Leona attended school at District #7 where their father got his education. Walter, who was still living with us, was killed in a run away on his folk's farm in 1941.

In 1950 we moved to our present farm we bought from the Cerney estate. We have lived here for thirty-one years. Leona finished grade school at Pleasant Hill school and Francis spent all of his grade school years here. The children all were graduates of Clarks High School.

Ivan now lives at Wausa, Nebraska and is Chief of Police. His wife, Lois Jane Cherry, formerly of Litchfield, is also a Police Officer. They have three children. John is majoring in ministry at Norfolk Christian College. Paul is a Senior and Jane is a Junior, both at Wausa High. Leona married Rodney Scherer whose parents lived at rural Gresham. They live on a farm north of Clarks and he is employed at Clarks Grain Co. They have three children. James, a Junior; Daniel, a Freshman; and Cynthia, a sixth grader, all in the Clarks Public Schools. Francis married Sandra Soll also from Clarks. He teaches school at Lakeview High School in Columbus and Sandra works at the Columbus Clinic. They also have three children. Deanna is a sixth grader, Robert a fifth grader and Tamara is a first grader.

Bill and I are now retired on the farm. We busy ourselves with our garden and a little livestock. We enjoy visiting and playing cards with relatives and friends. We love having the children and grandchildren come home. We enjoy them so much. *By Bernita Dittmer*



Bill and Bernita Dittmer — 1973



Adam Doncheske Family — 1912

ADAM DONCHESKE FAMILY

Adam was born in Falkenburg, Germany, May 2, 1866, to Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Doncheske. His twin sister, Eve, remained in Germany all her life. Ted and Kate were older children. Kate immigrated to America and became Kate Sohl of Ashland, Nebraska. Ted immigrated to America and eventually owned the place Bill Meyer now owns in Gage Valley. Their mother died when the twins were six years of age, and the children were cared for by another family as best they could, until they were old enough to work. Adam often mentioned that they never had shoes to wear, even in the winter, and not much food to eat. The poor families in Germany were very poor and the rich very wealthy. Adam had no schooling, but still survived. At age twenty-four, Adam decided to join Ted and Kate in the new world. Ted advanced him the money, and he traveled on very rough seas with lots of seasickness on a vessel named Wheatland. He arrived in Omaha, Nebraska, and was very fortunate to get acquainted with a German family named Henry Bloom. At that time, Adam could speak no English so he worked for five years while learning American ways and English language. This worked out real well, but he had the urge to come to Palmer and farm.

Ted helped Adam get started drilling wells and putting up windmills, then buying the eighty-acre farm one mile east of Palmer at three dollars per acre, which was hard to come by in those days. Adam often mentioned that if he had had a little financial backing at the right time, he could have owned the Kile and McNeal farms, but he was very happy with his eighty.

Adam batched for two years, then decided he had better find himself a companion. He was raised a Catholic, but with no such church in Palmer, he attended Worms Church and found a companion there named Marie Kuegel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kuegel, who lived on the farm which we know as Karl Kurz farm.

Adam and Marie were married on June 21, 1897. Their three children were Emil, who took over the home place; Meta, who became Mrs. John Rudolf; and Amanda, whose last name is Skeels, of Salina, Oklahoma.

Doncheskes often recalled their wonderful neighbors, especially Robert Lamberts with sons Quiznee and Clem. Mrs. Lambert was midwife for the community. Dr. Minnich was Palmer's doctor.

After working late in the field one Saturday, Adam drove to Palmer for groceries and couldn't find his way home without moon, fences, or roads, so he turned the team loose and they took him home.

Charles Tidd operated the hardware and grocery store. Eggs were three cents per dozen, coffee twenty-four cents per pound. He trusted Adam, and threw in many sacks of candy for the children.

In October, 1923, Doncheskes retired from the farm to the house in Palmer now owned by Viola Butcher.

Mrs. Doncheske deceased February 17, 1928, and Adam batched until he deceased February 4, 1955. *Submitted by Meta Rudolf and O.J. Nicholas*

DONOVAN FAMILY

The miles may be many, but the heart will always beat with love when the name of Chapman, Nebraska is mentioned. My great grandparents, John and Mary Jane Hickey Donovan, came from Ireland in 1848 and settled in a mining town near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, until they decided to come west in 1867. They came by covered wagon and spent several days at Lone Tree, then came on to the future site of Chapman. Grandfather built a two story log cabin, and helped build a water tower to be used for the railroad when it came. Some of the men connected with the railroad slept in the upstairs of the cabin, but it was burned and one of the little Donovan boys, Dennis, was upstairs and was burned to death. Great Grandfather was a section foreman on the railroad before he started farming. He gave the land that is the cemetery, and also named the town after a Mr. Chapman, an official of the railroad at the time it was being laid across that part of Nebraska.

My grandfather was Daniel, a son of John Sr. His brothers and sisters were John, Jr., Josephine Baese, Margaret Laub, and Jane May. Also, Nellie Blevins was taken in as a foster child and raised as a daughter. She was an orphan on an immigrant train, and great grandfather saw her and took her home with him. I remember my grandfather saying he had always worn denim dresses until he came to Nebraska at the age of twelve, when he got his first pair of trousers.

Daniel married Edna Cahow June 12, 1889, and they farmed east and south of Chapman. I remember, vividly, the stories they told of the year the grasshoppers ate everything they had planted, and they lived on beans all winter. Another favorite story was of the great snowstorm — I believe it was in '88, and they tunneled out to the barn to attend to the livestock. Grandma churned butter and made cheese that was sold in Grand Island. A trip to Grand Island took all day.

There were five children in the Dan Donovan family: John and Leon, who died at early ages, and Juanita, Daniel Earl, and Hilary. The lane to the farm was lined with trees years ago, and once when they had been to town in the wagon, a storm came up. While driving down the lane, a gust of wind blew Mother and one of her brothers out of the wagon, but Mother managed to hang onto a tree until Grandpa rescued them.

My mother was Juanita, who married A.J. Frimann. Her brother Earl married Eola Watkins, and their son lives in California. Hilary married Helen Neubert. I am the only child of the Frimanns, and I married Ralph Geddes of Grand Island. We have two daughters, Mrs. Jane Adams of Evanston, Wyoming; and Dianne Geddes of Omaha. *Submitted by Marian Frimann Geddes*



Mr. and Mrs. Dan Donovan and daughter, Mrs. Juanita Frimann — 1939

JOHN DONOVAN

John Donovan, Sr. was born near Dublin, Ireland, October 9, 1820, and married Mary Jane Hickey in 1846. They came to America in 1848, and were residents of Pennsylvania, until 1867, moving with his family to Nebraska, during that year. He settled in Chapman, and was section foreman on the newly built Union Pacific Railroad for a number of years. Later they moved to a tract of land adjoining the Village of Chapman, which he purchased from the railroad. He lived on this land the rest of his life.



John Donovan Family

Their children were: Mrs. Johanna Baese, Mrs. Margaret Laub, Mrs. Janey May, John Donovan, Jr., and Dan Donovan.

John Donovan, Jr. was born in 1865 in Pennsylvania, to John and Mary Jane Donovan and came to Chapman, in his infancy with his family where his father was employed as section foreman for the Union Pacific Railroad. In President Grant's administration, his father received a grant of land just south of Chapman, and there John Donovan grew to manhood. He married Rosa Hall in 1892 at Central City, and they made their home on the John Donovan Sr. farm. He was a general farmer and stockman and later opened a hardware store and an implement business. He also served on the Chapman Telephone Board and was an active member of the school board and entered into other community acitivites. The Donovans gave five and one-half acres to Chapman, for a cemetery in July 1885.

An interesting fact is that some immigrants buried their little daughter in a grave north of the lane and carved a stone for a marker. It read "Fanny 1867". The Indians would carry the stone away, but when they saw the name, they would drop it. People finding it would return the stone to the farm. No one was sure of the exact grave site.

Mrs. Donovan remembered about her great grandmother who lived in Ohio, telling about taking her twin babies to a Fort which was being attacked by the Indians. She gathered up her pewter plates in her apron and when ammunition ran out, these pewter plates were melted into bullets. That saved the Fort.

When Mr. Donovan was a young boy living on the homestead, he turned the large grindstone on saw horses for some Indians to sharpen their knives. This pleased the Indians so much that they would ask Mr. Donovan to eat with them, but he always refused because he was afraid it might be dog meat.

Mr. and Mrs. Donovan and family continued to live on the farm until 1918, when they moved to Grand Island. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in October, 1942. Mr. and Mrs. Donovan died in 1945 and 1944, respectively.

Five children born to this union were: Mrs. Ermal Treat, Dolores Donovan, Mrs. Wilma Roney, Mrs. Elma Metzer and a son, John Cloyde. Ermal Treat died in 1978, and John Cloyde in 1909. Dolores, Wilma and Elma now reside in California.

DANIEL DOOLEY FAMILY

Daniel John Dooley was born in Ireland and came to America when he was nineteen years old. He married Mary Tresia Ryan, who was born in Belfast, Ireland, May 18, 1834. She came to America when in her teens to live with a sister in Vermont. After she and Daniel were married, they lived in Vermont a few years before moving to Iowa. After the Union Pacific Railroad was built through Nebraska, they moved to Elmcreek, Nebraska, where he was section foreman. Four of their ten children were born there: Mollie, Josephene, Anne, Bridget, and Joseph. When John Donovan, Sr. moved to his farm, south of Chapman, Daniel Dooley was transferred to the Chapman section. Mollie married Patrick Farrell, who died one year later. They had one son, Daniel. In 1894, she married John H. Watkins. Bridget married Frank Combs. She died in 1900. Joseph never married and lived in the state of Washington until he died in 1909. All the other Dooley children died when very young. *Submitted by Eola Watkins Donovan*

RHETA BELLE DOTSON

Born in Nance County, I moved to Central City with my parents, John and Lottie Belle, in 1930. I attended eighth grade and then graduated from Central High School School in 1934. I then attended Nebraska Central College and graduated with a B.A. degree in Education.

All through my high school and college days I worked after school at the Thompson Dairy washing milk bottles for $1.00 a week and a quart of milk a day. I also did baby-sitting and worked on N.Y.A. to earn my clothes and school supplies. During these summers, I helped with the Summer Recreation programs. I especially remember the summer when Jane Ayers taught swimming, as that is when I learned to swim. A few weeks in the early summer was spent teaching Vacation Bible School for the American Sunday School Union.

I joined the First Christian Church in 1931 when L.O. Huitt was the minister.

In 1939, I went to Kimball County to teach. There I met my husband-to-be, Woodrow M. Dotson and we were married in Central City November 29, 1941. I taught school for seven years and in June 1945, when Woodrow returned from World War II, where he served in the European Theater, we made our home in Kimball County.

In September 1945, I was appointed County Superintendent of Schools and was then elected to that office in 1946. I resigned the position in July of 1947.

In April 1947 we moved to the Dotson family farm where we lived until the death of my husband in 1974. We raised wheat and cattle on our two section farm near Bushnell, Nebraska. We lived six miles from Wyoming and ten miles from Colorado. Our children attended school in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming.

During our married life, we traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada. We have visited all forty-nine of the continental states and several of the Canadian provinces. We lived in Massachusetts during the summer of 1942 as Woodrow was stationed there. Each spring was marked by a fishing trip to Canada with relatives and friends. We always enjoyed visits from family members; especially nieces and nephews who came to Kimball County to visit for the summer. They often accompanied us on trips.

We have two children:

Bonita Belle (Dotson) Dickinson was born October 28, 1946. Bonita is a graduate of Kearney State College and did her practice teaching at Central City High School. She is now teaching at Peetz, Colorado where she lives with her husband, Dale.



Woodrow and Rheta Dotson — 1941

Woodrow Marvin Dotson was born March 10, 1956 and is now a computer programmer in Columbus, Nebraska.

I now reside in Dix, Nebraska. I am a member of the V.F.W. Auxiliary, the Rebecca Lodge and the Dix Bible Church.

We return to Central City on Mother's Day and Thanksgiving and for other special occasions whenever possible. *Written by Rheta Belle Dotson*

DON DOUGLAS FAMILY

Donald Douglas was born in Grand Island, Nebraska on June 10, 1922. He married Ruth Wurtz on May 2nd at St. Peters Parsonage in Clarks, Nebraska.

We were blessed with five children. Barbara Carol was born with cerebral palsy. She now lives at Woodhaven Learning Center, Columbia, Missouri. Tony Douglas married Kris Shrewsbury of Nebraska City and they have three children, Heather, Travis, and Derek. They live in Independence, Missouri. Nancy Douglas married Alan Beck of Clarks and they live in Lincoln, Nebraska. Paul Douglas married Kim Jungert of Hastings, Nebraska, and they have one daughter, Nichole, and now live in Hastings, Nebraska. Jean Douglas now living in Alden, Minnesota.

Don and I are both graduates of Clarks High School. Don served in the United States Army 7th Division from 1940 till 1946. He received an honorable medical discharge. Don was postmaster at Clarks from 1948 till December, 1968. We are both members of St. Peters Catholic Church.

We have lived in Clarks all our married life. Don passed away on December 6th, 1968. *Submitted by Ruth Douglas*

DR. ROBERT R. DOUGLAS

A native of the community in which he served for fifty-six years, Robert Raymond Douglas was born in Clarks on May 28, 1889, the son of Robert R. and Anna J. McCarthy Douglas. He received his education in Clarks and in 1911, at the age of twenty-one he graduated from Creighton University College of Medicine. He interned for one year at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa, where he met a registered nurse, Mary Olive Moulton. They were married on November 12, 1913, in Wessington Springs, South Dakota. Dr. Douglas intended to start his practice in Des Moines but altered his plans when his father, (who was postmaster in Clarks) suffered a stroke. The doctor decided to return home for a short time to care for his father and at the end of the first year he was enjoying his association with the people and sensed their appreciation. As he often said, "These people are not only patients but my personal friends, really fine people."

Mrs. Douglas accompanied her husband by horse and buggy on his house calls and spent much time helping him at his office. Dr. Douglas hastened to help those in need at any time of the day or night. If necessary he would often stay overnight at a farm while treating a seriously ill patient or awaiting a birth. He assisted at the birth of over 2,000 babies and in some instances the birth of entire families — father, mother and children.

In 1953, the Clarks community honored him with an appreciation night. In 1961, he received a citation from the National Foundation of the March of Dimes for more than twenty years of volunteer leadership. Through his work everyone in the community had the opportunity to receive the full series of Salk vaccine injections. He received the AK-SAR-BEN Good Neighbor award and the Nebraska Medical Association honored him for fifty years service.

He was a lifetime member of St. Peter's Catholic Church and enjoyed membership in Third and Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, Merrick County, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Douglas were members of the Clarks Lions Club for many years.

Dr. Douglas was the father of three children, namely Robert Raymond Douglas, III, who died at the age of seventeen months, the late Phillip Francis Douglas, and Doris Ann (Mrs. Walter Cremeen),



Dr. and Mrs. Robert R. Douglas

presently of Grand Island, Nebraska. Five grandchildren shared this special man's affection. They are: Claudia Cremeen Schmidt, Jean Creemen Saathoff, Douglas Cremeen, Phyllis Douglas Redd, and Mary Douglas Svoboda. There are seven great-grandchildren.

In 1968, at the age of seventy-nine, Dr. Douglas was being taken to the hospital as a patient but the telephone rang and he stopped at his office to help that one patient in need. Dr. Douglas was truly a family doctor in the finest and most significant meaning of the term.

Mary passed away October 26, 1966, and Robert on October 17, 1968, with burial in St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery in Clarks. *Submitted by Doris Cremeen*

VINCENT DOUGLAS FAMILY

Vincent was born in 1890, the son of William and Mary McCarthy Douglas. After graduating from high school he attended college for a short time, but money was scarce so he returned home to help in the family's general store. He and a brother, Bill, operated the movie theatre in Clarks. Their sister, Josie, played the piano to accompany the silent movies shown. In 1916, Vincent married Pearl E. Zwiebel. They were the parents of two daughters, Phyllis and Betty. Vincent entered into the banking business, and later operated an insurance and real estate firm of his own. His daughter, Phyllis, became ill in 1936 and was unable to attend her senior graduation where she received highest honors. She died a few days later. Pearl died in 1961, and Vincent in 1966.

Betty married Ralph L. Cook in 1943. They are the parents of one daughter, Connie, born in 1948. Ralph farmed with his twin brother, Ray, until Ray's death in 1974. He worked alone for several years and then decided to rent his farm out, and went to work for the Clarks Grain Co. Betty started work at the Bank of Clarks in 1968, where she is still employed.

Connie married Donald L. Carlson of Central City in 1967. They are the parents of three children — Chris, Cendra, and Craig. Ralph and Betty still live in Clarks. Their daughter and family reside in Grand Island. *Submitted by Betty Douglas Cook*

WM. R. DOUGLAS FAMILY

William R. Douglas was born February 9, 1926, the son of Michael Basil and Maude (Byrd) Douglas. He received his education in Clarks, Nebraska, completing high school in the class of 1944. He then joined the Marines and spent three years in the South Pacific. In 1946, he returned to Clarks and went into business with his father.

On August 11, 1949, William R. Douglas and Marlene G. Morris, daughter of Floyd and Genevieve Morris, were united in marriage at St. Peters Catholic Church in Clarks, Nebraska. To this union six children were born, all graduates of Clarks High School. Their children are:

Robert Allan, attended Wayne State College, and served in the U.S. Army. On June 2, 1972, he married Connie Lowe, from Billings, Montana, who was teaching school in Clarks. They have two children, Darwin William and Tara Irene. Bob is a partner in Lowe Roofing Co. of Spearfish, South Dakota.

Catherine Diane; graduated from St. Mary's College in Omaha, Nebraska and is a Medical record administrator. On June 8, 1973, Diane married Mark Sutko. Mark is Vice-President of Federal Land Bank in Columbus, Nebraska. They have a daughter Kathryn Christine and triplets: Nicholas James, Douglas Patrick and Jessica Marie.

Thomas Greg; attended Platte College, Columbus, Nebraska, served in Viet Nam. On July 14, 1972 he married Mary Shonsey. Greg is in the grocery business with his father (Bill). They have three sons; Jason Thomas, Judd Michael and William Joseph.



Mr. and Mrs. William R. Douglas

Debra Anne; graduated from St. Mary College school of nursing and is an R.N. She married Randy Dexter on June 20, 1975. They reside on a farm six miles west of Clarks and have two daughters: Sarah Christine and Anne Melissa.

Michael William; attending Kearney State College and is a meat cutter at Hinky Dinky Store in Kearney, Nebraska.

Denise Lynn; attended Kearney State College. On June 6, 1980 she married Andy Bolling. They live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Andy works for Safeway Stores and Denise is a Secretary for Cable Television, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. *Submitted by Marlene Douglas*

PHILIP A. DUFFY FAMILY

The advertising slogan, "I'm Crowing for Philip A. Duffy," was a business byword in the Central City area, beginning in 1914 when Philip A. and his wife Zola Edmunds Duffy moved to Central City from York, Nebraska. Mr. Duffy was for many years a Central City businessman who owned and operated a produce and poultry business, and later pioneered the long-distance trucking and transfer business when it was in its infancy.

The Duffy Produce House was located along the east side of the Burlington Railroad tracks, according to a town plat illustrated in the 1917 Merrick County Atlas, and it specialized in cream, eggs, and poultry.

Turning to the trucking and transfer business, Mr. Duffy saw the opportunities that the railroad lines presented. A 1929 article in the local newspaper states that "the freight rates to Central City have made it possible for shippers to consign goods here by the carload and have the Duffy Transfer Company distribute the contents directly to the door of the merchants in the surrounding towns, including Grand Island."

Of Irish ancestry, Philip Duffy, Sr., was born 27 June 1882, at Wakefield, England and died 1 May 1954, at Omaha, Nebraska. He married Zola Sarah Edmunds 10 January 1907, in Dayton, Wyoming. (Zola Edmunds was descended from Quaker ancestry with a lineage traceable to pre-1600 America. Her progenitors helped to colonize Pennsylvania.) Mr. Duffy's parents, Miles and Bridget Meehan Duffy, emigrated from England to Canada in 1883, and in 1884, settled in York County, Nebraska.

The children of Philip A. and Zola Duffy:

1. Alice Ursula, born 19 April 1908, at McCool Junction, Nebraska, married Olan Keith Wilson 26 December 1932, at Central City, Nebraska (see John Wilson family history elsewhere in this volume).

2. Patricia Alouise, born 20 February 1913, at York, Nebraska, married Francis Maguire 22 January 1937, at Omaha, Nebraska.

3. Philip Joseph, born 15 August 1914, at Central City, Nebraska, died same day.

4. Philip Aloysius, Jr., born 28 December 1917, at Central City, Nebraska, married Ruth French 23 August 1941, at Omaha, Nebraska.

The family moved from Central City to Omaha in 1935. Mr. Duffy had been active in the Knights of Columbus mens' organization for many years. He was awarded the 4th Degree in 1915, which is the highest honor attainable. From 1942 until his death in 1954, Mr. Duffy served as comptroller of the Knights of Columbus in Omaha.

Mr. and Mrs. Duffy are buried in the Central City Cemetery. *Submitted by Alice Duffy Wilson*

DUKES FAMILY

The Dukes family history begins in the early 1800's, with Thomas Oneil, from County Kurk, Ireland.

When he came to America, he married Nettie Hathaway from Pennsylvania. They had a daughter who married Thomas Dukes and moved to Indiana. The Dukes' had two boys and moved to Union, Nebraska. He died of pneumonia, and his wife married his brother, Joseph Dukes.

Thomas Elex Dukes, who was named for his father, became a barber. He married Mary Eaton, who was one-fourth Cherokee Indian. She smoked a pipe and drove a team of horses.

Samuel Elex was born to them in Union, Nebraska. He married Mary Blevins and worked in a quarry. They moved to Minersville, Nebraska, and ran a fishing and well-digging business. They had eleven children and moved to Nebraska City. Here he worked at Morton Gregson Packing Company for twelve years. The depression came and it closed, so he went back to fishing and well digging. He supplied large spoonbill catfish, weighing between 118 and 125 pounds each, for the University of Nebraska Aquarium.

His son, Wilson Samuel Dukes, joined him in business after graduating from high school. Wilson met Gladys Rhoades, whose family came from London, England to Quebec, Canada. They moved to the Grand Island area. After farming there for years, Gladys' family moved to O'Neill, where Gladys was born. During the depression, they moved to Nebraska City and farmed.

Wilson and Gladys married in December of 1941. They then moved to Omaha, Nebraska. World War II began and Wilson was sent overseas as a medical technician in seven countries. He was 316 days in battle, until they landed at the Normandy Beach Battle.

After the war he returned to Omaha. He worked for Swift Packing for twenty years, where he was elected Chief Steward of the CIO-AFL.

Wilson started in Central City in 1959, Dukes Rest Manor, which he ran for twelve years. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Third District President of the Nursing Home Association.

Wilson retired with a disability in 1970. Gladys and Wilson have three children; Wilson James Dukes, Jr., who is married and is the Deputy Sheriff of Hamilton County. They have three sons; Wilson III, Michael, and Matthew.

Lonna Blath lives in Central City and is a Licensed Practical Nurse at the Veterans Medical Center in Grand Island. She has one daughter, Michele.

Deborah Johnston is married and she and her husband, Larry, farm near Chapman. They have two sons, James and John. *Submitted by Viola Johnston*

DUNHAM FAMILY

My maternal grandparents are John Salathiel Dunham (1834-1912) and Eulitia Blair Dunham (1834-1900). They were married in 1856 and farmed near Spragueville, Jackson County Iowa. John served in the Civil War from 1861 until his discharge in 1865 when he returned to his Iowa farm. In 1875 they moved their five children to a farm one mile west of Clarks, Nebraska. Two children were born there. Their eldest child, Sadie, (1857-1877) died of consumption and was buried in the Pierce Chapel Cemetery near Clarks. The family moved into Clarks where they operated a hotel and a dray for a few years. They then farmed again while continuing to live in town.

Daughter Della Dunham (1862-1936) married Alexander Grimes (1855-1932) a travelling salesman in 1885. They lived in Clarks for many years while raising four children. Their daughters Ethel (1895-1964) married a Clarks boy, John Harold Shonsey (1894-1918) and had two sons.

Addie Dunham (1863-1921) married John Cole (1851-1936) in 1878. They farmed a mile south of Clarks until 1908 when they moved to Nampa, Idaho. They had four children. Their daughter Bessie (1879-1970) married Frank Johnson (1881-1944) in 1906.

Lillie Dunham (1865-1904) clerked in the store of Westgate and Williams, also in William Douglas' Store. In 1894 she was married in the Clarks Congregational Church to Jordan Kokjer (1865-1942). Jordan had come from Denmark in 1883 with his brother Madsen to work in the implement and blacksmith shop established by their brother Hans Kokjer in Clarks. Jordan worked in the shop summers while attending Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, preparing for the ministry. Jordan and Lillie had two daughters both born in Clarks. Elva (1895), and Katherine (1900). Jordan's life work was minister in Congregational churches and they lived in various small Nebraska towns.

John Dunham Jr. (1869-1933) worked on bridge construction for the Union Pacific when it was built. He married an Ogden girl in 1895 and they made their home in Ogden, Utah. They had three children.

Frank Dunham (1875-1906) married Maggie Wood in Clarks. They had three children.

Kittie Dunham (1878-1929) graduated from Clarks High School in 1898. She was married in 1899 to Otto Reger (1870-1959) who had come to Clarks to preach in the Friends Church. In later years he was a Congregational minister. They had three children.

In 1913, I, Elva Kokjer, went to Clarks for my last two years in high school. I lived in the home of my uncle Hans Kokjer, helping Aunt Malina who had the care of her ninety-four year old mother. I graduated from Clarks High school in 1915. Once there were many of our relatives to visit in Clarks. Now there are none. *Submitted by Elva Kokjer Osterhout*

DON DUSH FAMILY

Don Dush, the youngest of four children born to Andrew Dush and Dorthy Sutko Dush, was raised on a farm two and one-half miles east and three miles north of Clarks. His grade school education was completed at District #16 and he graduated from Clarks High School in May 1966.

Don served a short time in the military before being called home because of his dad's failing health. He then assisted his parents on the farm until 1969 when Andrew and Dorthy moved to the "old Rice Place" — one mile east and two miles north of Clarks to enjoy semi-retirement.

On October 4, 1969 Don married Teresa (Terri) Hamilton at St. Lawrence Catholic Church. Terri is the oldest of three children born to James J. Hamilton and Beverly Briggs Hamilton. She attended Central City High School for three and one-half years before her family moved to Lead Hill, Arkansas, where she graduated from Lead Hill High.

Don and Terri purchased the family farm in 1975. A new home was built on the dairy farm during the summer of 1979 by Bialas Bros. Const. Co.. In October of 1979 the Clarks Volunteer Fire Dept. burned the original dwelling during a "practice drill."



Don Dush Family

The couple are parents of five children: Amy Christine, born May 17, 1971; Brad Daniel born July 5, 1972; Nikole Dawn born December 8, 1973; Brigit Dean was born on March 18, 1977 and March 2, 1979 Haley Anne joined the family. *Submitted by Terri Dush*

LORRAINE HOBACK DYER

I, Carrie Lorraine Hoback Dyer, was born at Wood River, Nebraska January 30, 1922. My parents were Carrie Eulalia Mitchell and John Franklin Hoback.

We came back from Missouri. We spent one or two nites at a hotel in Palmer. We lived on a farm northeast of Palmer (sand hills) and I started to school (Loup Valley) for the first time. From there we moved to east of Frank Forbes. I remember we had a cow, Ed, Oren and I used to ride it. From there we moved to where Guy Lamberson lives and then to Clarice Place south of Palmer. Then to Tibbetts Place and to Clarks where Ed met Lola. Ed was working for her father. After that we moved to Newlon Place south of town. I was so glad to be back at Palmer.

I graduated from eighth grade rural school, three miles south of Palmer. I graduated from Palmer High School May 1940.

In November 1941 I went to Washington D.C. to work for War Production Board. I spent four years in Washington and then I met my husband who was stationed at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia waiting for his discharge from the service. Al served in the U.S. Army, Corp of Engineers in Europe. He landed at Normandy Beach two days after the "D" Day.

I resigned from my position in Washington December, 1945. Oren returned from South Pacific and I returned back to Palmer. Al met me at home and we were married on January 27, 1946 at First Church of Christ in Palmer. The next day Al and I headed by train to Oakland, California.



Lorraine and Al Dyer — 1980

Al and I lived in Oakland from February 1946 till April 1, 1951 when we bought a home in Castro Valley, California. I remember we had to buy a set of silverware in order to get an alarm clock, when we got married. This was after the war and many things were hard to get. Our first car was a 1936 black Pontiac Coupe.

We have four daughters: Eunice, teaches at Peninsula Christian School, Redwood City, California. Janet, is Air Traffic Controller at Santa Rosa Airport, Santa Rosa, California. Karen has a son, Ryan. Gayle, married John Hilderbrand. They have a daughter born in April, 1951.

Carrie Lorraine Hoback, born January 30, 1922, Wood River, Nebraska married Alfred Joseph Dyer January 27, 1946 in Palmer, Nebraska, who was born March 29, 1923 in Redlands, California.

Eunice Faye Dyer, born May 30, 1950, Oakland, California. Graduated from Castro Valley High School, June, 1968 and California State University, Hayward, California June, 1973.

Janet Marie Dyer Scott, born July 20, 1951, Oakland, California, graduated from Castro Valley High School June, 1969, married Ronald Scott August 28, 1970, now divorced.

Karen Sue Dyer Reed, born May 15, 1954, Walnut Creek, California. Graduated from Castro Valley High School June, 1972 and married Rick Roland Reed on June 26, 1976, Castro Valley, California. He was born February 25, 1953, Sacremento, California. Graduated from Castro Valley High School June, 1971. Child: Ryan Roland Reed, born February 7, 1979, Castro Valley, California.

Gayle Claire Dyer Hilderbrand, born March 6, 1957, Walnut Creek, California. Graduated from Castro Valley High School June, 1975. Married John David Hilderbrand June 24, 1978, Castro Valley, California. He was born August 6, 1955, Taylorville, Illinois. Graduated from Castro Valley High School June, 1973. *Submitted by Lorraine Hoback Dyer*

C.L. "JACK" & IVA EASTWOOD

Clifford L. Eastwood was born near Kenesaw, Nebraska February 2, 1905 to William John and Ida Mae (Gorsuch) Eastwood, he had seven brothers and two sisters. The family moved to Logan County in 1918.

In 1919 he helped his dad build a 32x30 sod house for the family to live in, and helped several other families build their sod homes. He is the only person presently living in Merrick County who understands the construction of sod buildings.

His grandfather, John Gorsuch was Captain of a wagon train that traveled from Kenesaw to Cherry County in the early 1890's to take up homesteads north of what is now Mullen.

He remembers all the ranchers picking up cow chips for fuel. Later on they could get coal so it was used for all their cooking and heating needs.

He received all his education in a one room sod school house.

On October 2, 1926 Jack married Iva Louise Clark, daughter of Frank J. and Vida Irene (Laub) Clark of Central City. She had two sisters and two brothers; Kenneth Clark who resides in California, Donald Y. Clark who still is living on the home place west of Central City, Doris Charron of Central City and Verda Theobald who lived at Wallace, Nebraska. She attended a rural school, Nebraska Central and Chadron State College and was teaching school when Jack met her.

Jack and Iva had one son, Gerald William of Seattle, Washington; and one daughter, Mrs. Gerald (Jacquelyn) Shull of Palmer. They also took into their home two other children and put them both through high school.

They owned and operated a ranch northeast of Mullen. He also carried mail on a Star Route for twelve years in the Sandhills. They milked cows and sold the milk to the local dairy in Mullen.

They moved to a farm north of Central City in 1952 where he fed cattle, farmed; and had a dairy herd.

Jack was always a lover of good horses and moved several down with him to do part of the farm work. He enjoys his saddle horses and has broke a good

many of them to ride. When he retired he bought some ponies and parade animals and has taken part in many parades around the country and county with his teams and covered wagon.

Iva passed away June 5, 1978 and Jack has maintained his home north of Central City. *Submitted by Mrs. Gerald Shull*

EATON FAMILY

James L.V. Eaton was born March 9, 1873, at Albion, Iowa, in Marshall County. He died September 4, 1931. He was married to Mary Ella Packer, who was born January 10, 1872, and died May, 1943. They were married March 4, 1895, and lived a short time in Colorado. In 1899 they came to Central City, Merrick County, Nebraska. They joined the Quaker Church in 1915. His first employment after their arrival in Nebraska was feeding sheep for Hords, serving as sexton at the Central City Cemetery, and farming.

Nine children were born to this union. Mildred died in infancy. John Leland was born January, 1897, in Colorado. He never married. He was a farmer and employee of the Union Pacific. He died in October, 1955.

Erwin Winfield was born in Colorado on September 4, 1898. He was married to Louise Rocklitz, and they raised one daughter. He retired from The American Railway Express after forty-seven years in their employ. In January, 1973, he died.

Myrtle May was born February 19, 1900. She married Wilber Pressnall. They lived in Idaho and Oregon, and raised five children.

James Obern was born in August, 1904. He married Emma Shively, and they raised a family of six children. He was a mechanic and heavy equipment operator until his death.

Josephine was born on March 2, 1907 and died July, 1978. She was a graduate of Nebraska Central Academy, class of 1923. She married Stephen Martin in 1925. In August, 1939, she married George Cox. They lived in Omaha a short time before coming back to Central City to establish the Cox Service Station and Nite and Day Cafe in 1945. It is still a going business, under the management of Josephine's nephew, Duane, and his wife, Bernice. Duane is Cecil Eaton's oldest son. Josephine had one son and four stepchildren.

Cecil William was born November 28, 1909, and graduated from Central City High School in 1928. He married Ella Brondel and raised three children. Cecil was employed at the Archer elevator, and later was on the Central City Police Force till his death.

Ruth Ann was born March 26, 1911, and died September, 1979. She graduated from Central City High School in 1929, and was employed in the office of Dr. Earl E. Boyd. She married Adrian Carlson. They made their home in Grand Island, Nebraska, and raised five children.

Esther Abi was born February 5, 1914, and graduated from Central City High School in 1931. She married Clarence Erickson. In 1951 they lived on the Erickson farm at Hordville, and Esther continued her work as cook at the Nite and Day Cafe for many years. She is now retired and living in Central City. She had no children and is the only one of her immediate family still living. (Esther Eaton Erickson died April 13, 1981). *Submitted by Esther Erickson*

JAMES A. ECKLES FAMILY

James A. Eckles was born November 1, 1849, at Mercer, Pennsylvania. On November 14, 1877, he married Cora B. Starrett born August 10, 1859, Adams County, Ohio. They were married in Maysville, Indiana, where they lived for twelve years. In 1889, they came to Merrick County, Nebraska, living first on a farm near Clarks, then moving to Archer where they lived on a farm just outside town until he retired. They moved to Central City for their remaining years. About 1910, while they were living near Archer, their house caught fire. Neighbors and people from town came carrying buckets of water. The house was completely destroyed, and they rebuilt on the same place.

Mr. and Mrs. Eckles were the parents of four children: Nathan Sylvann born December 8, 1878; Guy Floyd born March 31, 1881; Grace May born July 15, 1883; and Claude Raymond born August 19, 1886.

Nathan (Vean) married Mary Vanderholf. They were the parents of three children: Omar, married to Hazel Wagner; Violet, married to Laurence Kuhn; and Dale married, in California.

Guy married Thrina Morris. They were parents of one daughter, Berniece married to Cecil Grace, son of Parker and Geneva Grace.

Grace married John Kamerer. They were parents of four children: Harriet, married to Jack Wisby, Thelma married to Steve Brock, Raymond married to Kathryn Reavis, and Jeanette married to Dr. James Smith.

Claude married Ida Nedrig. They were parents of one son, . Kenneth, who is married to Leona Wahlfeldt.

Mr. and Mrs. Eckles and their family were members of the Methodist Church which used to be in Archer before it was destroyed by fire. *Submitted by Bernice (Grace) Soderberg*

EDWARDS — CLARK

James C. Edwards (born May 17, 1849) and Mary Lee Moyer (born November 26, 1852) were married on October 10, 1871. Their first home was a farm nine miles northeast of Palmer on Section 20, Mead township. Three children were born to this union. Charles was born July 23, 1872, and died October 31, 1904, as a result of a logging accident. Eva Edwards was born October 24, 1874. She married John Friend and they raised two children, Homer and Laura. Mina Jane was born December 8, 1881. As a young girl, she acted as hired man with the farm chores and could stack hay with the best of them. In 1906, at the age of twenty-four, Mina married Clarence Walter Clark. This Valentine's Day wedding took place after a cold and snowy sixteen-mile trip to Fullerton over snow drifts, fences and all. For eight years of their early married life, Clarence and Mina lived on a farm near Fullerton. Six children blessed this marriage. Mary Leota, 1909-1971; Emma Belle, 1912; Edith Evelyn, 1914; Clarence Ralph, 1915; Florence Lucille, 1920, and Beulah Marie, 1924.

As the eldest child, Leota could get the younger kids to do her work, when she was left in charge. She attended St. Paul Business College at age seventeen and married Donald Dollen in 1931. For many years, they made their home in Omaha.

Emma Belle was named after the two ladies who helped at her birth. She was an outdoors person and tomboy, which made for many accidents, all treated at home. At age twenty-four, she married Raymond Hann in Papillion. In 1942 they moved to Kansas City, Missouri. One daughter, Joan Rae, was born in 1945, three weeks after the untimely death of her father. Joan married Fred Ready at Broken Bow and moved to Greenwood, Nebraska. There are three children in this family — Jeffrey Lynn, 1964; Rodney Eugene, 1967; and Michele Sue, 1971.

Edith also grew up in Wheeler County. She spent a short time in Grand Island, then moved to California where, in 1962, she married Maurice Wilson.

Ralph married Ruth Arnold of Palmer in 1936. They made their home in Omaha and had two sons, Howard of Omaha and Robert of Phoenix.

When these four children were small, the Clark's spent two years in Missouri. Florence was but a babe on the return trip in a covered wagon. This trip took a year and included fording a river.



Clark Family

Florence married Richard Cornish in 1939, living in Oconto and Lexington, and finally California. They have four children — Lyle, Paul, Dean and Judy.

The Clarks returned to a farm near Palmer and in 1924, Beulah was born. As a child she had a pet Banty hen, which followed her everywhere. She graduated from Palmer High School. Her adult life has been spent in Calfiornia, where she has been married to Herman Gallant since 1974.

After 30 years a widow, Emma married Orville Nicholas in 1977, and moved back to Palmer. *Submitted by Emma Nicholas*

GEORGE EHLERS FAMILY

George Ehlers was born October 7, 1872 at Davenport, Iowa, the son of Henry and Bertha Giess Ehlers. He came to Nebraska at the age of fourteen years and settled on a farm west of Chapman where he grew to manhood.

In 1894 he bought a farm four miles northeast of Chapman and on November 22, of that year he married Celia Paustian. Two daughters, Alma and Laura were born to this union. Alma is deceased and Laura resides at Merrick Manor. Mrs. Ehlers died January 4, 1898.

November 14, 1901 George married Amanda Paustian and they became the parents of ten children. Three died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Ehlers were most successful farmers and through the years acquired several more farms, raised fine livestock and became much loved, respected and prominent neighbors and friends.



Mr. and Mrs. George Ehlers

Their family who all grew to manhood and womanhood on the family farm. All attended District #39 school. Their five sons, Willis, Hugo, and Earl are deceased, Ralph is married to Mariellis Hehnke and lives in Denver and Floyd and his wife Doris reside in Central City. One daughter Edna was married to Ray Smith and is deceased. Their daughter Bernice is Mrs. Edwin Lock and lives on a farm near Central City.

Following the death of Mr. Ehlers in 1933, Mrs. Ehlers remained on the farm where with the help of her family she continued to maintain it most successfully. Mrs. Ehlers died on August 3, 1954 and her sons and daughter Edna continued to maintain the farming operations until they were sold in 1968.

The following article was written and submitted to several local newspapers following the death of George Ehlers by Mr. Dave Magnuson and speaks for itself as to the character and integrity of Mr. Ehlers.

"Mr. Ehlers was popular among his neighbors of many years standing and esteemed in high degree for his keen business judgement and sterling integrity. He was in the strictest sense a farmer and a most successful one. He likes to feed cattle and hogs and his lots were never empty of critters being prepared for market.

To enjoy his confidence was to feel the thrill he obtained from his farming operations, every angle of which he made a deep study and in which he gained

an insight that proved most valuable in a business way.

In the passing of George Ehlers, Merrick County loses one of those sterling dependable characters who did so much by precept and example to build up our community." *Submitted by Floyd Ehlers*

EDWIN EILTS FAMILY

Our family moved from Jefferson County, Nebraska, to Merrick County in the summer of 1957. Our farm operation near Endicott was dry land, and the drought of the 50's forced us to make a decision: we had to either give up farming or move to an area where water for irrigation was available. I must add that this move has been good to us.

Our family joined the Methodist Church shortly after coming to Central City, and through the years have been active members, doing what we could to assist in the work of the church.

James and Robert, our two sons, were born at Fairbury, Nebraska. Edwin, the son of Henry and Bessie Bellis Eilts was born at Jansen, Nebraska. Marjorie, daughter of Joseph and Betsy Ann Clary Chancellor, was born at Fairbury.

Both boys attended grade school at Endicott and Central City. They were both graduated from Central City High School as honor students. They were active in FFA, both receiving the State Farmer Award. Robert also held a state FFA office.

Edwin received his education in the Endicott School System. Marjorie attended Fairbury grade and high school, and also Peru State Teacher's College. Before marriage, she was an elementary teacher in the Endicott Public School and also taught in the Central City School System.

In the fall of 1957, a small "Want to rent Farmland" ad appeared in the local paper and brought Robert Stuart to our door. We were fortunate to be able to rent his farm. Thus in the spring of 1958, we began a new experience, farming irrigated land. In September, 1962, we purchased this farm from Mr. Stuart. Mr. Stuart had purchased the farm from Soren Jorgenson and his wife Kristiana in 1926. We have done a great deal to improve the place and are completely happy with our location and our home here in Merrick County. As the years went by, our "little boys" became men and left the home of their childhood to begin life in a home of their own.

James married Linda Ellis on February 14, 1965. They have three children: Brooke John, born February 28, 1967; Justine Catalina, born September 5, 1970; and Brendan James, born October 25, 1979. Jim is a mechanic; and owner, operator of S & E Precision Motors in Grand Island.

Robert was married to Carol Messersmith on January 15, 1972. Their children are Jennifer Leigh, born August 13, 1974, and Jay William, born February 2, 1978. Bob purchased the Powell Farm west of Central City, and farms his home place plus some rented land.

In a way, you could say our family has come full circle, since our youngest son and wife are now the age Edwin and I were when we made the move to Merrick County. In time he will take over the farming operations as we reach retirement age. Hopefully, the day will come when Jay William will want to till the soil that both his father and grandfather have worked. May each of us leave the land a little better than we found it. For truly we are stewards of the soil. Farming is so much more than a way of making a living: It is a way of life. *Submitted by Marjorie Eilts*

LEO ELLISON FAMILY

Leo Ellison and Deva Lindgreen were married in 1935. To this union two children were born: Ruth Gillan and Jarold Ellison. They have lived in the Central City area all their married life. Ruth has two children, DeAnna, a registered nurse, and Kenton. Jarold has two children, Jan Dee and Brian Leo, and lives at Sparks, Nevada at this time.

GEORGE JOSEPH EOFF, SR.

George J. Eoff, Sr., was a direct descendant of Jacob Eoff, who was born in 1678 in Holland and came to New York State in 1710. Jacob took the oath of allegiance to U.S. July 22, 1977. George, the son of Orson John and Emily Ingraham Eoff of Elmore, Ohio, was born in Conway, Iowa, January 10, 1871, and died December 12, 1944, at Central City, Nebraska. As a young man, George became a traveling salesman for The Wheeler and Motter Dry Goods Co. of St. Joseph, Missouri. As such he traveled throughout the entire Middlewest, including Central City. In St. Joseph he married Lillian Gerhart, born June 25, 1870 and died September 26, 1900. Two sons were born to them, George, Jr. September 14, 1895 and Lee Gerhart September 25, 1896, both in St. Joseph. George later married Maude Wheeler who lived only a short while.

On September 23, 1905, George Sr. married Mabel Berryman, daughter of James Hayden Berryman. Mabel was born June 25, 1875, in Central City and died January 6, 1949, in Omaha. Soon after their marriage, George and Mabel built a house and established a home at 2204 Seventeenth Avenue. Four children were born to them here: Evelyn, March 5, 1910, Dale Hayden, May 16, 1911, Edward James, April 24, 1914, and Hardin Berryman, February 16, 1917. The six children are graduates of Central City High School as was Mabel herself.

Following World War One, George purchased the O.D. Burke Department Store. Upon their honorable discharges from the Army George, Jr. and Lee returned to Central City to help run the store, hereafter to be known as "George J. Eoff & Sons — Everything To Eat and Wear For Everybody." We all worked in the store. During the Twenties, George purchased The Pure Food Grocery and when the Great Depression forced the closing of the Dept. Store in the early thirties, the family continued to run The Pure Food Grocery.

I was enriched by two years at Nebraska Central College, Central City, graduating from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois in June, 1931. After teaching a year in Goshen County High School, Wyoming, I married Rev. Harold C. Sandall, Methodist clergyman. We had 42 years together in Methodist parsonages in Nebraska, for which I will ever bow my head gratefully. Two children were born to us: a son, Harold Lawrence, July 31, 1935, in Norfolk, Nebraska and a daughter, Jean Ingrid, January 4, 1941, at Scottsbluff.

Harold Lawrence, "Larry," married Myrna Marie Sandvall, June 7, 1958, in Omaha. They have two children, Scott Lawrence, born April 16, 1959 and Kari Lynn, born January 2, 1962. Both were born in Washington, D.C. Ingrid married Bruce Lyman Hutching September 7, 1962, in Lincoln. They have two sons, Mark Allen, born March 16, 1967 and Steven Bruce, born February 7, 1970. Both were born in Champaign, Illinois.

My husband, Harold C. Sandall, died August 20, 1974 in Lincoln. September 4, 1978, I married Amzie Vernon Grass in Lincoln. Amzie is retired from the State Dept. of Education and is a long-time family friend.

George and Mabel Eoff were very public-spirited citizens, serving on many Boards and Community and Church projects. George on Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln Highway. George was a Mason, a Shriner and a Knights Templar. Mabel served on Cemetery Board, Election Board, High School Alumni, Order of the Eastern Star, P.E.O., and Presbyterian Church. Their stalwart voices speak to us still, for "The heart hath its own memory — like the mind." *Evelyn Eoff Sandall Grass*

ADRAIN ERICKSON FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Adrain Erickson live near the old Nebraska Central College in northwest Central City. They are the parents of twins, Gloria (Mrs. Clayton Nelson) of Marquette and Ron, of Lincoln. There are seven grandchildren, Michelle, Melissa, Marni and Ryan Nelson and Jeff, Aaron and Racheal Erickson.

Adrain was born October 1, 1908 to Charles and Channa Benson Erickson on a farm near Horchille, Nebraska. He was the ninth of twelve children, all delivered at the family home by a midwife. At the age of twelve Adrain was stricken with polio. Many home remedies were tried to no avail and Adrain was left with crippled legs and feet and a predominant limp. At the age of sixteen he quit school and went to work for an uncle, Victor Erickson, near



Adrain and Inez Erickson — 1976

Hordville, for nine years helping with farm chores. During this time Adrain again suffered injury to his leg when he kicked a horse and his foot slipped through the harness and he was thrown to the ground and dragged into the barn breaking his leg.

Adrain's grandparents, Peter and Christina Erickson were born in Sweden in 1840 and came to this country in 1869.

In 1933 Adrain met Inez Iola Fullington at a country barn dance. She was the fourth of six children of Hattie Jane Gagle Fullington and Joseph Columbus Fullington. Inez and Adrain were married March 4, 1936. They moved to a farm near Archer and later to one in the Fairview community before moving to Central City where they have resided the past 23 years.

In 1942 Adrain (known as "Swede" to his many friends) began work for the Union Pacific Railroad. During these years he worked at Chapman, Clarks, Silver Creek and Central City. One interesting time he remembers is when his railroad crew worked during the 1952 flood in Council Bluffs filling sandbags and patroling the dike. Due to an arthritic condition he had many operations on his back, hips and feet and had to retire from the railroad in 1967.

Inez has always raised a large garden and enjoys canning and sharing with her family. She remembers the huge truck garden tended by the whole family when she was a child and peddled from town to town in their model T Ford with huge "banana crates" displaying their produce tied to the running boards.

Inez has been in two of our Nebraska tornados. The first was in 1928 when she lived on an acreage next to the old Merrick County Fairgrounds. As the tornado approached all the children, except Inez, stood in a line in a center room holding hands. Inez, at the inquisitive age of nine could not resist running over to a nearby window to "watch." The house was raised into the air and then dropped abruptly. The barn was also lifted high into the air and three relatives that had run inside for shelter from the rain ran out in fright before the barn was set back down. The tongue of the horse drawn cultivator was driven into the ground with the cultivator sticking into the air, a straw was driven through a fencepost and the feathers were neatly plucked from the chickens. Many towns people came to view the phenomenon and take pictures. Although the family would have liked to take pictures, they did not own a camera. The second tornado was in the 40's when they lived next to the old District #18 Burke School. This time the family was safe in a store cellar as the roof to the garage was carried one-half mile away and dropped in a pasture. The grainary and a small chicken shed were also blown down.

Inez and Adrain enjoy living in Merrick County and being close to their families so they can enjoy their grandchildren and relatives. *submitted by Inez Erickson, Gloria Erickson Nelson*

LAWRENCE & KATE ERICKSON

In March of 1929, Lawrence August Emanuel Erickson and his wife, Kate Keller Erickson, moved to Merrick County, Nebraska, from Holdrege, Nebraska, with their family of five sons and three daughters. Settling on the M.A. Larson farm, which had irrigation possibilities, provided a better living. They raised corn and had a dairy. They delivered milk on a route for five cents a quart. They moved to Wichita, Kansas, in 1941 where Lawrence was employed at Beechcraft Aircraft factory then returned to Central City, Nebraska in the spring of 1947. Family life was centered around the church. They were members of the United Methodist Church of Central City. Kate taught Sunday School and served as Sunday School Superintendent. She also helped plan the educational unit of the present church. Lawrence sang in the church choir and enjoyed fishing, hunting and horse shoe pitching.



Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Erickson

Lawrence was born on August 28, 1886, in Holdrege, Nebraska, the son of John A. and Jenni Erickson who came from Sweden. He was the fourth child in a family of seven brothers and seven sisters. Kate was the daughter of Edwin and Adeline Kurtz Keller born on July 9, 1890, in Rushville, Nebraska. Kate had five brothers and five sisters. Lawrence and Kate were married in Holdrege, Nebraska, on April 20, 1910. Their marriage of sixty-two years was blessed with a large family.

Warren Erickson: married Vivian Halleck, was founder of Umco Corporation in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which manufactured fishing tackle boxes.

Elaine, Mrs. Wayne Hendrickson: raised Chinchillas and sold Mobile Homes in Santa Barbara, California and Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

Gerald Erickson: married Genelle Eller. Gerald worked for the Internal Revenue Service and upon retiring served as tax consultant in the Philippines, Dutch Guiana, and Botswana, South Africa.

Lenore and her husband, Ronald Webster, operated a furniture store in Central City, an Appliance and TV store in Ogallala, Nebraska and also in California.

Leland Erickson: married Maxine Willeman and while living in Wichita, Kansas, was employed by Boeing aircraft factory. He served in Germany in World War Two. They later moved to Merrick County and were engaged in farming and livestock.

Clayton Erickson: married Edith Small, they lived in Wichita, Kansas where Clayton was employed at Cessna aircraft factory. After serving in the Air Force in World War Two he worked as a diesel mechanic in Wichita. In 1956 they moved to a farm in Merrick County where Clayton presently farms and has a dairy.

Donald Erickson: married Marge Goetsch and is the supervisor of the tire department for Frontier Airlines in Denver, Colorado.

Imogene, Mrs. John Montgomery: worked for the A.S.C. in Montana and works for the Forestry Department in Coeur D Alene, Idaho.

In addition to the immediate family, they had twenty-one grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren. Lawrence once said, "Never would I have believed my family would scatter so far, but we have a strong togetherness." Kate passed away March 16, 1971. Lawrence passed away July 27, 1977. Both are buried in the Central City cemetery. *Submitted by Kande Erickson Lindburg*

LELAND & MAXINE ERICKSON

Leland Adel Erickson, born November 5, 1916 of Swedish parentage, moved with his parents and family, Lawrence Aguust Emanuel and Kate Keller Erickson, from the Holdrege dust bowl area to Central City for better farming conditions.

Leland and I graduated from the Central City High School. I went on to Nebraska Central College.

The new Lloyd T. and Winifred Farnham Willeman home in the Fairview Community near Central City, was my birthplace, September 2, 1920 and the setting for our wedding. I, Maxine Marie, married Leland and made our first home in Wichita, Kansas, the pre World War II boom town of three airplane factories.

Leland was a skilled craftsman in the woodshop, building P-9-17 Stearman training planes for the Boeing Airplane Company. He also worked on the new B-29 as a sheet metal and landing gear assembly machinist and for a time, a supervisor.

I was one of the first ladies hired in the accounting deparmtent. The thousands of factory workers watched the first B-29 bomber off the assembly lines make a very short maiden flight.

Leland joined the Army Infantry and trained in Camp Hood, Texas. Stationed in the Army of Occupation in Berlin, Germany, Co. L. 310 Inf., he had various jobs in the motor pool, riot squad and later drove a command car for officers and dignitaries.

August 1947 Leland started farming in partnership with my father, Lloyd Willeman.

Leland was a good steward of the soil and used his ability, initiative and a will to achieve, through hard work. These ideas and feelings plus an education at the University of Agriculture College was given to our sons.

Our sons, Dan and Don, were a joy. Working and playing together brought close family ties. Being active in the Fairview Church and community brought benefits of a full life.

Leland held office in church organizations, including treasurer of the parsonage building, was a member of the District #18 school board for many years and also treasurer of Lone Tree township board.

Lelands interests were bowling, fishing, hunting and sports. My special interests are singing in a trio, china painting, bowling, 4-H Bird Club, Fairview Homemakers Extension Club and most of all the grandchildren.

Leland's life was cut short by cancer at the age of sixty-one. Although we could not have the sixty-two years of married life that his parents achieved, he lived long enough to know and enjoy all our grandchildren.

I still make my home in the caring Fairview Community with my son Dan L. and his family Donna Heins Erickson, Russell, Brenton and Justin to the south and my son Donald R. and his family Diana Polzkill Erickson, Deirdra, Ryan, Spencer and Katherine to the north. *Submitted by Maxine M. Erickson*



Leland and Maxine Erickson

DAN ERICKSON FAMILY

Dan L. Erickson, son of Leland and Maxine Willeman Erickson was born August 7, 1946 at Hord's Memorial Hospital in Central City. He met Donna M. Heins while both were attending Central City High School. Donna was born July 6, 1947 in Grand Island, Nebraska to William and Frances Stephens Heins. Her family moved to Central City in 1956 when her father was transferred from North Platte after living in several different towns. Donna's father became Central City's telephone manager.

Dan attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln majoring in Agronomy and Economics. Dan is also an alumni of Farm House Fraternity.



Dan Erickson Family

After graduating from Central City High School, Donna attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and graduated from the Omaha School of Practical Nursing.

On June 3, 1967 they were married at the Lutheran Church in Central City. After Dan's senior year at the UN, they settled on the Lloyd Willeman home place, Dan's grandfather's. Dan began farming with his father, Leland. Dan started a hog operation in the Willeman's old milking parlor.

Dan and Donna have thoroughly enjoyed their family of three sons. Russell Lee was born July 10, 1968. Brenton William was born October 21, 1970. Justin Daniel was born April 25, 1974. Russell is very active sports enthusiast. He enjoys participation as well as being a loyal spectator. Brent is a true nature lover. He enjoys animals of all kinds and camping in Nebraska State Parks. Justin enjoys being very active. His special interests are his new puppy and his quarter horse Tanya.

Dan and Donna cleared a corner of a corn field in April of 1975 and built their new home. A highlight was moving to this new home in August of 1975.

Dan raises corn and keeps busy with his hog operation. Donna has since retired from nursing and works as a part-time secretary at Fairview-Archer Zion Churches. Dan and Donna both enjoy golf, bowling and an annual snow skiing trip to Colorado with friends. Their family enjoys camping, canoeing, volleyball and almost all active sports.

We appreciate the opportunity of rasing our sons in the same friendly small town we grew up in. We have enjoyed having our sons involved in the same school system that has given us so many fond memories. *By Donna Erickson*

DON R. ERICKSON FAMILY

Most things seem to stay pretty much the same in a small town like ours. When Donald R. Erickson was born July 1, 1951, to Leland and Maxine Rickson, Dr. E.T. Zikmund was the attending physician and Evelyn Everett cared for the new baby at the hospital. Twenty-seven years later, when Don's fourth child was born, Dr. Zikmund was the family doctor, and Evelyn Everett was on duty to take care of "Katie," just as she had been when Leland's son was born. The building had changed. Don was born in Hord Hospital, which stood where the Merrick Manor is now. The new Litzenberg Memorial County Hospital began "operating" in March, 1959, so this is where our children were born.

Don went through the elementary grades at Burke School, District #18, just as his mother, Maxine Willeman Erickson, had. The school was located one mile east of the Willeman home, and all Maxine's sisters and brother attended school there. Most of the country school houses were abandoned in 1968, when the schools were consolidated and the students went into town. Don and future wife, Diana Polzkill, were in the first graduating class from the new Senior High School in 1969.

Diana was born in Fullerton, Nance County, in 1951, to Bernard and Donna Horn Polzkill. The family moved to Central City in 1956, with their five children: Robert, Karan (Mrs. Dennis Dunn), Bernard (Ben), Diana, and Rhonda (Mrs. Barry Blue). Don and Diana were married May 20, 1972, after Don spent three years at the University of Nebraska. They returned to their home town and started farming with his father Leland and brother Dan. Leland retired in 1973, leaving the farming to his sons. But his love of farming and helpful nature kept him very much involved until his death in 1978.

Don and Dan named their new partnership "Eureka Farms," after the name their grandfather, Lloyd Willeman, had painted on the barn when he farmed there. Lloyd and wife Winifred had built a new six bedroom house in 1918, on this farm, and Maxine was born and married in this home. Don spent many happy hours here as a child with Grandmother Winifred. He bought the Willeman home in 1975, and lives there with Diana and their four children, Deirdra, Ryan, Spencer, and Katherine. The children are among the fifth generation in this farming area, dating from 1872, when their great-great-grandfather, Thomas McKee Willeman, homesteaded here. Their love for farm life seems to be an inherent characteristic.



Don R. Erickson Family

Aside from farming, the majority of time is devoted to family, and regular Bible study. Hunting, golfing, fishing, bowling, tennis, and racquetball are included as often as possible, and the entire family shares an enthusiasm for skiing. *By Diana Erickson*

CLARA WILDER EVERETT

Clara Wilder Everett has been a lifetime resident of this area. She was born March 11, 1885 in a four-walled soddie, two miles west and one mile north of Hordville south of the Platte River, to Will Alonzo and Annie Margaret Dehm Wilder. Later she and her family settled on a farm on Prairie Island.



Clara Wilder Everett
86th Birthday

Her father, Will, came to Hamilton County from East Farmington, Ohio with his father when he was nine years old.

Clara's grandmother, the mother of Annie Margaret Dehm, came from Germany at seventeen, her husband-to-be was on the same boat and they were then married in New York City. They gradually came west, and arrived in Central City from Republican City, Nebraska. They heard that there was work on the railroad.

When Clara's family was living on Prairie Island, Sioux Indians came and asked for chickens — they never harmed anything. The Indians kept their horses and dogs in a 'swale' near the river. During the 1888 Blizzard the snow covered the Wilder's home.

There were six sons and three daughters in the Wilder family. They are Charlie Hall, Clara G., Ernest, Fred, Mae, Harold, Merle, Adna and Thelma.

Jule and Ruth Wilder were no blood relation to Clara. They were always good friends and Clara and Bill were 'aunt' and 'uncle' to the Wilder children.

In 1906 Clara graduated from the Academy at Nebraska Central College, she then completed the Business Course in 1907. She went to work for O.D. Burke at his department store as a bookkeeper. She worked for Burke's for eight years. When he sold the store to George J. Eoff & Sons, she continued to work another eight years.

In 1923 Clara bought the Calumet Cafe from R.O. McNurlin and renamed it the Wilder Cafe. She ran the cafe for thirty-eight years until 1962 when it closed. Clara made many friends in her years at the cafe.

Clara and William Everett were married in November 1924. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1974. Bill died May 1, 1975. He is buried in the Central City Cemetery.

Mrs. Everett has been a member of Rebekah Lodge 25 in Central City for over sixty years, serving in all offices including district deputy; a member of Buford Relief Corps since 1928; a member of the Eastern Star; American Legion Auxiliary; Chamber of Commerce; and served as the first vice president of the local Professional Business Women's Club. She was secretary-treasurer of Riverside Park Association from 1942 to 1960 and the Women's Golf Club.

Clara has been a member of the Friends Meeting since 1903.

Clara was instrumental in getting the old Central City fire bell placed in the museum yard. The bell was originally hand pulled. The structure was especially designed by a local resident. It was dedicated to William A. Everett in memory of his thirty-eight years as a fireman.

Several friends helped Clara celebrate her ninety-sixth birthday in 1981 at her home, 822 C Avenue, which she maintains.

Clara helped organize the present Merrick County Historical Museum, Incorporated. She is one of Merrick County's most knowledgable historians and a delightful person with whom to visit. *Submitted by Nancy Johnson From Interviews With Clara Everett*

ROBERT & VICTORIA EVERETT

Robert Francis Everett was born October 24, 1869, on what is known as the Old Black Place, seven miles east of Central City, Nebraska. He was one of seven children of Thomas Albert and Millicent Phelps Everett who were from New York state. The family consisted of Ella, Albert, Ike, Lottie, George, Robert and James. All are deceased.

Robert "Rob" and Mary Victoria "Vic" Yarno were married April 10, 1892. Vic came to Nebraska from Indiana with her parents in a covered wagon drawn by oxen when she was five years old. She was born on December 11, 1874. Her parents were Ezra and Ovil Alley Yarno, who had four boys and one girl: Enos, Amos, Charles, Fred and Vic. All are deceased. Ezra Yarnos located on the Old Yarno Place, five miles east of Central City.

To Robert and Vic Everett were born eight children, five girls and three boys: Jessie Oval, Ernest Fred, Nettie Irene, Wilbur Francis, Roy Cecil, Evelyn Millicent, Helen Marie and Dorothy Elaine. Jessie married Delmar Gleason in January of 1913. Ernest Fred died when one year old. Nettie married Dick Stuart October 18, 1913. Wilbur married Emma Mauser in 1920. Roy married Alda Robertson in 1921. Evelyn married Fred Truesdell November 1, 1931. Helen married Roy Weaver in March 1938. Dorothy married Albert Emgarten May, 1932.

Rob worked for T.B. Hord for many years. He eventually farmed for himself on the Yarno Place.

March 1916 they moved to Big Springs, Nebraska and farmed the Reimer Alfalfa Ranch. In 1918 they moved back to Central City to a home south of town. Later they moved to the Goerl farm north and east of town. From there they moved to the Piper Ranch, then to the Hathaway farm, from there to Hans Franson and then to Central City and retired. Robert passed away September 1955, Vic in May, 1958.

When Rob was real small his hair was red, Indians would pass through their place and their men would hold him on their knees and say, "Heapa nice chief." His mother was always afraid that they would steal him. The Indians also came through the Yarno farm and would steal chickens. They worked for the Yarnos so Grandma Yarno fed them. She baked bread for them and the squaws would hide slices under their clothes to take to their men who sat under the shade while the squaws did the work.

Vic or "Ma" as she was called spent her leisure hours fishing with a cane pole and fish worms. She was noted for catching big fish. She was also a practical nurse and was at the birth of a great many babies.

They celebrated their sixty-third anniversary before passing away. *Presented by Evelyn Truesdell and Dorothy Emgarten*



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Everett
60th Anniversary

ALVINA NIEDFELT EWOLDT

Alvina Lena Henrietta Niedfelt Ewoldt was born on February 28, 1906, in Merrick County to Diedrick J. and Ella Scherzberg Niedfelt. She married Frank Ewoldt, Jr., whose parents were Frank and Daisy Graham Ewoldt.

Alvina and Frank Ewoldt lived on a farm southwest of Grand Island. They were the parents of three children: Harold; Frederich, who was married to Lillian Eisenmann; and Virginia, who married Kenneth Stoltenberg and later Lavern Anderson.

Alvina Ewoldt is deceased, and is buried in the Grand Island City Cemetery. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl Karen Niedfelt*

GEORGE FABER FAMILY

George Faber married Caroline Huhnstock, and their trek to Merrick county began from Wommen, Hessien, Germany.

With one daughter, Anna Barbara, and two sons, William and Adam, they emmigrated to Ashland, Illinois, in 1882. A daughter, Sophia, was born soon after. They lived in Illinois for awhile.

Later, we find them in Holt County, Nebraska, near Atkinson, where Anna Barbara was married to Adolf Zlomke, October, 1888. I don't know if their sons moved about Nebraska with them or not. In the later years, Adam was living in Illinois and Will in Minnesota.



George and Caroline Faber

It would seem our grandparents heard of the great opportunities of Merrick County and moved to a farm southeast of Archer, later moving into Central City.

Sophia Faber was married at Archer, to William Kennedy. They lived much of their lives in California.

The Fabers died in Merrick County, but are buried in Illinois. *Submitted by Aileen Rudolf Rawlings*

WILLIAM & LOUISA FARNHAM

Exerpts from a newspaper account of the wedding of my Grandparents William C. Farnham and Louisa Rhodes were: "Married September 10, 1879, in the Congregational Church at Wataga, Illinois. After the ceremony, 100 invited guests accompanied the young couple to the bride's home for congratulations, and the bridal feast."

Among the wedding gifts listed were: "two cows; silver castor; dozen sets of initaled silverware; silver and glass pickle castor; one-half dozen silver nut picks and fruit knives; linen table cover and napkins; cabinet photography and scroll frame; hair receiver, etc."

Mother (Winifred), Aunt Jayne, and brother, Fred, were born while the family lived near Wataga. In 1885, Grandfather came to Nebraska and bought 160 acres southeast of Archer. There Bess and Charles were born.

A musical family, Grandfather played the organ and directed the Archer Methodist Church.

Young people in those days would walk between their homes, singing. They played croquet, went ice skating, had box socials, and parties.

Evenings were spent playing Authors and Crokenole. Sundays there was always popcorn (still a family custom), and in the evening the whole family and friends would gather round the organ to sing.



Jayne Bordner

Tuesday evenings, were always spent with Grandfather reading the *Youth's Companion.*

The blizzard of 1888, Grandfather went after Mother and her brother, Fred, to their school #24 in a wagon, following a fence line. The year that corn was plentiful but no price, the family burned ears of corn in the cook stove.

The winter of 1891, little sister, Charlotte, died of the croup. Packed snow covered fences and roads, so Grandfather and Cousin Doe walked the Burlington tracks that go from Archer to Central City to get a casket. Her body was buried in the north lawn until spring when they took it to the Central City Cemetery.

When Grandmother Farnham was president of the Archer Ladies Aid, 1897, they made a wheel design quilted quilt and sold names on it for a money making project. I have this quilt, and hope to display it in Merrick County some time.

Uncle Fred died in his early twenties. Mother, Aunt Jayne, Aunt Bess, and Uncle Charles all went to Central City High School.

Mother taught in Merrick County and Archer Schools five years before she and Dad (Lloyd) were married and became the mother of we seven Willeman girls and brother Tom.

Bess studied nursing and was Dr. Benton's special nurse, with a maternity ward in her home on 17th Street.

Charles was a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, and was with the Providence Journal, Rhode Island until his retirement. He was elected to "The Fellow of The American Society of Genealogists."

He wrote extensively for Genealogy magazines, published the Rhode Island History, and researched many family histories before he died in 1979.

Aunt Jayne (Bardner) is the only living member of the family. At ninety-six she still lives in her five room Long Beach apartment.

For many years, Jayne Farnham was a Junior High principal in Central City and later was Deputy County Treasurer until 1930.

When Grandfather Farnham died, Aunt Jayne married Guy Bardner and moved to Los Angeles. *Submitted by Vera Willeman Daniels*

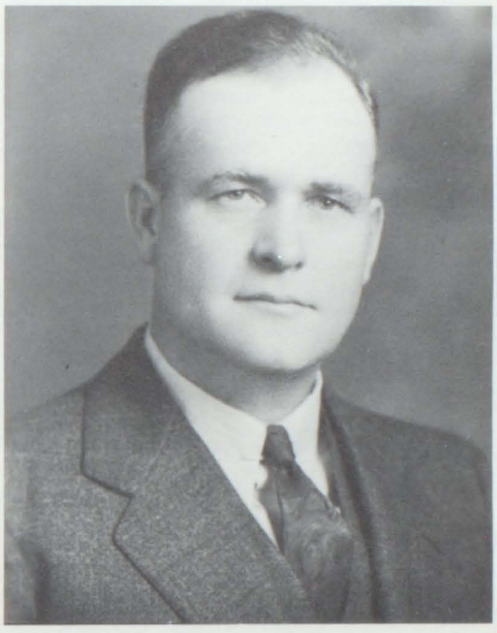
DAVID FAUQUIER

David Fauquier was born at Chapman, Nebraska March 19, 1902, a son of Thomas and Belle Bruno Fauquier. He attended District #28 school for his elementary education, then went to Central City High School graduating in 1919. He began to teach in September 1919, that year he taught in District #55. The next two years he taught in District #21. He also taught in District #8 for a semester. After three and half years of teaching he decided this was not his line of work.

He went to work on road construction with various contractors when much of it was done with horse power. He became very familiar with road construction, building bridges and drainage problems. This was the work he enjoyed. In January 1936 he was appointed Merrick County Road Engineer and later County Surveyor. He served faithfully in this office for twenty-nine years, and was termed as one of the most efficient officials in the state.

He was a Veteran of World War II and a member of Lone Tree Post #6 American Legion. He was a member of Friendship Lodge #239 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Chapman, Nebraska, and served in various capacities including that of Worshipful Master. His other affiliations included Laura May Chapter #251, Order of Eastern Star, Chapman, Royal Arch Chapter #26 and Royal and select Masters Lebonan Council #24 Central City, Lebonnan Commandery #6 Knight Templar of Grand Island, and Tehama Temple Order of the Mystic Shrine, Hastings.

His home was the family home northwest of Chapman. Much of his time was spent in Central City, or on the road, checking roads, bridges, culverts and drainage.



David Fauquier

This is a tribute to a dedicated man who took pride in his work and left many records which are in the courthouse which are important as future references making him a part of Merrick County History. *Submitted by Elizabeth Fauquier Mason*

FRANCES ANNETTA FAUQUIER

Frances (better known as Nettie) was born January 14, 1908, the daughter of Thomas and Belle Bruno Fauquier. She grew to adulthood on the family farm. She attended school in District #28. Many years she stayed home helping with many of the family duties. In 1935 she went to New York to work for the Gardner Murphy family taking care of their two children. This gave her the opportunity to indulge in the culture found in a large city. With the children she would go to museums, zoos, parks, plays, operas, etc. This was a lovely experience.

In 1941 she left the city, came home and spent a few months. In 1942, she went to Independence, Missouri, to work at the Remington Arms Ammunition Plant, worked there a year and a half. In May 1944, went to work as Postmaster in Chapman, Nebraska. She retired from the Chapman Post Office in 1972, she lives in Chapman has a nice home and takes great pride in her yard. She takes a great interest in culinary arts, and enjoys cooking large dinners, and all who are invited to the dinners enjoy the fine food.

She is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Laura May Chapter No. 251 at Chapman, Nebraska, is a Past Matron, and has served many years in different offices in the Chapter.

The fruits of her labor are a nice home, comfortable circumstances and a place in a chapter of Chapman history as well as Prairie Creek and Merrick County history. *Submitted by Elizabeth Fauquier Mason*

THOMAS FAUQUIER

Thomas Fauquier was born in Keokuck, Iowa, October 8, 1860. He was the youngest of three children of Ephraim and Margaret Gosnell Fauquier. His father was a veteran of the Civil War. He enlisted in Company C, 3rd., Iowa Cavalry in September 1861, and died in a military hospital at Benton Barracks, Arkansas from exposure and cold contracted during the siege of Vicksburg. He was survived by his widow and three children.

The family moved from Iowa to Louisville, Kentucky, in 1866, then to Danville, Illinois, in 1868. In the fall of 1872, the mother and her three children Charles, Lizzie, and Thomas, came to Merrick County and homesteaded the South-half of the Southeast Quarter and South-half Southwest quarter of Section 22, Township 13, Range 8.

Thomas was twelve years old when he came to Merrick County. The family lived with Thomas Gosnell (an uncle) until 1883, who helped the mother with her family. The mother lived on the homestead until her death in 1914. She resided with Thomas after his marriage to Belle Bruno, daughter of Henry Bruno and Augusta Bruno Gosnell, in 1897. Belle Bruno taught school in District #35 for four years prior to her marriage. To this union there were eleven children born, Ephraim, David, Harry, Elizabeth, Annetta (Nettie), Ruth, Thomas, Lawrence, Margaret, Clifford, and Louise who passed away in infancy. The ten grew to adulthood and each chose their own career. Belle (mother) died in 1957.

Thomas Fauquier was a good father, a farmer and stockman, and a good citizen, one of the few boys that lived on the homestead until his death in 1926. He served as Deputy County Assessor of Prairie Creek Township, and on the school board in District #28 for many years.

The Fauquier family came to Merrick County as pioneers to brave whatever the future held in store for them. It was hard work, good times, bad times, sadness, and much happiness, but this is the way of life wherever we make our home. *Submitted by Elizabeth Fauquier Mason*

BENJAMIN, WILLIAM & ANNIE FEEHAN

Benjamin was the first born child of Daniel and Elizabeth McCarthy Feehan, and was born August 1, 1878. He lived his entire life at Clarks and never married, and died June 2, 1950. He attended District #15 School and Clarks High School.

William Francis was the fourth child of Daniel and Elizabeth Feehan and was born January 14, 1884. He died March 15, 1955. He also attended District #25 School and Clarks High School. William was engaged in farming and livestock feeding all of his life. He bought grass fed range cattle and sheep and then fed them grain until they were fattened. Generally, he raised his own hogs and sold them fattened. In addition, he ran a Grade A Dairy. For some years he was a Merrick County Supervisor, and was also a trustee of St. Peters Catholic Church. He also had some banking interests. He lived his entire life in the Clarks area and never married.

Annie Josephine was the youngest child of Daniel and Elizabeth Feehan. She was born July 27, 1887, and died on March 22, 1977. She attended District #25 School and graduated from Clarks High School at the age of sixteen in 1904. She attended Fremont Normal in Fremont, Nebraska for several years, and then began teaching in rural schools in Merrick County. To get to her schools, she rode horseback. Later she taught the eighth grade in the Clarks Public Schools. When she retired from teaching, she was a partner with her brother William in the farming and livestock operation. She also served as a member of the Clarks School Board for many years. She also spent her entire life in the Clarks area and never married. *Submitted by Elizabeth Feehan Fagan*

DANIEL & ELIZABETH FEEHAN

Daniel Feehan immigrated to Clarks, Nebraska, in 1875 or '76 from Rock Island, Illinois. He worked as a section hand on the Union Pacific Railroad. On March 25, 1877, he established residence on and filed a homestead claim on Section 4 (Southeast quarter) Township 14, Range 5 west of the sixth principal meredian, which was northwest of Clarks, Nebraska. This homestead was patented March 27, 1884. It was described as eighty acres cultivated and twenty acres of fine timber. These were cottonwood trees that had been planted as trees were very scarce at this time. The house was of logs, and was sixteen by twenty-four feet. There was also a stable, frame granary, corn crib, corrals and a pig pen. The total value in 1884 was two thousand dollars. Daniel Feehan was born in County Cork, Ireland on January 12, 1844 and emigrated to the United States in 1867. He became a naturalized citizen in Rock Island, Illinois in 1875.

On August 26, 1877, Elizabeth McCarthy of Rock Island, Illinois and also a native of County Cork, Ireland, and Daniel Feehan were married at Clarks, Nebraska by Father J.M. Ryan at St. Peters Catholic Church. They had five children: Benjamin, Mary Ellen, John Joseph, William Francis, and Annie Josephine. The first four children were born in the log house, but Annie was born in the new frame house, which has since been demolished. Benjamin was such a small baby that he had to be kept in a bread pan in the oven to keep him warm.

In addition to their own family, Elizabeth McCarthy Feehan's younger, orphaned brother and sisters Daniel, Ann, and Mary McCarthy lived with them. Later Ann married Robert Douglas, and Mary married his brother William, and they lived the remainder of their lives in Clarks. Daniel moved to Fon du Lac, Wisconsin, where he worked as a boilermaker and died in 1918.

The family endured many hardships such as drought, grasshoppers, prairie fires, and the extreme temperature changes which they never had in their native Ireland. Daniel Feehan cancelled his claim in 1879, but must have had a change of heart because he reapplied a few weeks later. Joseph and William suffered broken legs in falls from horses, and several family members had pneumonia, but on the whole the family enjoyed fairly good health. When in his teens, Benjamin had an attack of appendicitis, and was taken by his mother in a team and wagon to Grand Island, Nebraska where he had surgery. Fortunately, Daniel's brother lived in Grand Island so Grandmother had a place to stay while Benjamin recuperated in St. Francis Hospital. The nuns from the hospital made regular trips to the surrounding communities to beg money to keep their hospital going.

Daniel Feehan died August 6, 1906. The family lived on the original homestead until 1913. Then Elizabeth McCarthy Feehan and her children Benjamin, Williams, and Annie built a new home on land they had acquired in Section twelve. This house had electricity, running water, and a furnace and was one of the early modern farm houses in Merrick County. In the sixties this house was moved to a plot south of Clarks, and is the home of the Gregg Douglas family. Joseph married and stayed on the original homestead, and Mary Ellen married Thomas Lavelle and moved to Clarks.

Elizabeth McCarthy Feehan died February 9, 1924. *Submitted by Elizabeth Feehan Fagan*

JOHN & MARGARET FEEHAN

John Joseph Feehan was the third child of Daniel and Elizabeth Feehan. He was born January 9, 1882, and died August 4, 1956. He attended District #25 School and graduated from Clarks High School in 1903. Except for a year that he spent as a railway mail clerk with a run from Cheyenne, Wyoming to Pocatella, Idaho, he lived and farmed in the Clarks area and was a livestock feeder. On June 18, 1913, he married Margaret Finn of Grand Island, Nebraska, also a native of County Cork, Ireland. They lived on the original Feehan homestead until 1918, when they sold it and bought the Brown farm east of Clarks and nearer the Platte River. Margaret Finn was born March 15, 1892, and died July 6, 1977. In the course of the marriage they had five children.

Their first son was Edward Francis, born on July 30, 1914. He attended Clarks public schools and was graduated from Clarks High School in 1932. He attended Nebraska Central College in Central City and the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. He was the assistant postmaster in Clarks until 1940, when he married Helene Kozal of Central City and they moved to Washington D.C., where they were both employed by the federal government. They returned to Nebraska and Edward was graduated from Creighton University School of Law in Omaha. They lived in Central City for several years, and then Edward moved back to Omaha. He and Helene were divorced and he later married Margaret Elizabeth Wislicen.

Elizabeth Theresa Feehan was born October 19, 1915. She attended Clarks Public Schools and was graduated from Clarks High School in 1933, and was awarded a Regents Scholarship to the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, which she attended from 1933 to 1935. She then transferred to the St. Catherines School of Nursing of Creighton University and was graduated in 1938 and became a registered nurse. In 1942, she joined the Army Nurse Corps and served until 1946 in hospitals in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, Clinton, Iowa, Springfield, Missouri and Cherbourg, Rouen, Rheims, and Paris, France. On August 16, 1944, she married Robert Loren Fagan and they have two children, Michele and Roberta. The Fagans have lived in Omaha, and Elizabeth was employed by Douglas County Hospital and The Visiting Nurse Association and is now retired.

The third child was John Joseph Feehan, Jr., born January 8, 1917, and died on September 17, 1973. He graduated from Clarks High School in 1935 and was also awarded a Regents Scholarship to the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, which he attended from 1935 to 1938 when he entered the University of Nebraska School of Medicine and was graduated in 1942. He interned at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, and then was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Army and served in the Pacific Theater, island-hopping from Guam, Okinawa, The Phillippines and Japan. He was discharged from the Army as a major, and then served a short residency at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and then a year's residency at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in pathology in New York City. He then completed a three-year residency in surgery at the University of Colorado in Denver, and earned a Master of Science degree in surgery. On June 3, 1948, he married Janet English of Cascade, Iowa. He practiced medicine in Rapid City, South Dakota.

William Robert Feehan was born June 8, 1923. He was graduated from Clarks High School in 1941 and was the third member of his family to be awarded a Regents Scholarship to the University of Nebraska. He attended the university for three years, and then was drafted into the Army and served in the infantry until he was wounded in the Battle of Hurtgen Forest. After the war, he graduated from the University with a degree in Business Administration. He married Mary Ellen Gallagher on June 18, 1949, in Chicago where he was employed. They had two sons, Michael and Dennis. He has lived in South Dakota, Georgia, Japan, and is now living in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The youngest child in the family is Margaret Ann born September 9, 1930. She graduated from Clarks High School in 1948 and St. Catherines School of Nursing of Creighton University in 1951. She received her bachelor of science degree from Creighton University in 1953, and has worked in the field of nursing ever since. She later was awarded a master of science from the University of Nebraska, and has been a long-time member of the faculty of the University of Nebraska College of Nursing. On May 12, 1956, she married Raymond J. McMahon, Jr., and they have had two children, Mary and Daniel, and live in Omaha. *Submitted by Elizabeth Feehan Fagan*

ALBERT FERGUSON FAMILY

Albert Harper Ferguson was born December 22, 1880 in Crawfordsville, Iowa to William and Ida Ferguson. The family came to Clarks, Nebraska in 1902.

Flora Eliza Boettner was born November 28, 1893 to Edward and Mary Boettner on a farm near Silver Creek, Nebraska.

Bert and Flora were united in marriage May 28, 1913 at the Boettner home. They settled on a farm



Bert Ferguson Family — 1943

eight miles northwest of Clarks where they resided until 1946 when they moved to another farm just three miles northeast of them, where they lived until Bert passed away on November 9, 1962. In 1963 Flora moved into a new home in Clarks where she resided until she passed away on June 25, 1965. They were both buried at the Pierce Chapel Cemetery.

Bert was an ambitious farmer raising corn, wheat and oats. Also Hereford cattle. He always enjoyed his neighbors and arguing politics. He served a number of years as a Merrick County Supervisor, also many years on the Farmers Union Co-op board. In all the years his children went to Pleasant Hill School he served on the school board.

Flora loved her church and always served in many capacities at Pierce Chapel Church. She always had her children in Sunday school and church.

The family suffered hardship years during the drought of the 1930's. Bert and Flora's children were all very hard workers, and the love of family and their faith in God kept them all going.

Growing up as teenagers and young adults the Pierce Chapel Epworth League group provided most of the recreation, also ice skating parties on Prairie Creek.

Born to Bert and Flora at their farm home were seven children. Harold Leroy, May 4, 1914, now living in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Married Dorothy Lucille Gleason April 11, 1938. They had three children Laree Jo, Garey Leroy (deceased) and Elaine Joyce.

Ralph Edward, March 12, 1916, now living in Norfork, Nebraska. Married Julia Margaretta Jerome August 20, 1939. They had three children: Judy Lee, Joey Charles and Linda Kay.

Edith Mae, December 18, 1917, now living in North Platte, Nebraska. Married Clifford Lyle Eschliman July 16, 1940. They had three children: Mary Lou, Sandra Lee (deceased) and Clifford Lynn. Clifford Eschliman was deceased April 8, 1972. Married Marion Isaac Zachry October 6, 1972.

Carl William, September 23, 1919, now living in Lincoln, Nebraska. Married Annie Olwen Jones, December 24, 1963.

Glen Albert, April 6, 1921, now living near Clarks, Nebraska. Married Rosemary Louise Kahler January 14, 1945. They had three children: Michall Glen, Vickie Rose and Rickie Ralph.

Mary Lucile, February 17, 1923, now living near Osceola, Nebraska. Married Teddie Martin Dittmer December 7, 1947. They had four children: Robert Ray, Dickie Lee, Danny Jo (deceased) and Kathie Jean.

Earl Wendall, November 10, 1933, now living in Nelson, Nebraska. Married Selma Albertha Kunze March 11, 1956. They have two children: Scott Alan and Patricia Lyne.

We are a close knit family and love nothing better than a good old family get-to-gether. *Submitted by Edith Eschliman Zachry*

GLEN FERGUSON FAMILY

Glen Ferguson was born April 6, 1921 to Bert and Flora Ferguson at their farm home eight miles northwest of Clarks, Nebraska.

Glen grew up on the farm, helping his dad and brothers farm the home place. He attended Pleasant Hill school through the tenth grade and finished his last two years at Clarks High School, graduating in 1941. Glen loved sports and always participated while in school, and was a very good supporter of his sons while they were in school.

Rosemary Kahler was born July 13, 1924 to Ralph and Marie Kahler at Osceola, Nebraska.

She attended school at High Prairie. She also graduated from the rural school in Polk county.

Glen and Rosemary were married January 14, 1945 at her parents home near Clarks, Nebraska.

They settled on a farm owned by Glen's grandmother Mary Boettner. It was located near Silver Creek, Nebraska. They farmed there from 1946 to 1961 when they moved to a farm four miles northeast of Clarks.

Glen has always been an ambitious farmer, raising crops and livestock. Also he custom combines, shells corn and hauls livestock to market.

Rosemary has always worked both in the home and helping Glen with any farm jobs.



Glen Ferguson Family

Glen and Rosemary have three children.

Michael born February 15, 1948. Served two years in the U.S. Army. One year was served in Viet Nam.

Married Marcia Reeves April 8, 1972. They have two children, Michelle and Mandy Jo. They live in Grand Island, Nebraska, and Mike works in the Veterans Hospital.

Vicki born June 17, 1953. Vicki is a Flight Attendant for Frontier Airlines. Married Robert Medley March 15, 1980. They live in Aurora, Colorado.

Rick born August 4, 1958. Rick farms with his dad, and on other land in Merrick County. He lives in Clarks, Nebraska. *Submitted by Rosemary Ferguson*

JOHN & CLARA FERGUSON

John Manual Ferguson and Clara Stokely were married April 19, 1903, at Douglas, Nebraska. Clara had come to Nebraska as a girl, traveling in a covered wagon from Indiana. She completed one year of study at Peru Normal School, earned her teaching certificate, and was teaching school at the time of their marriage. John was born in Nebraska and farmed near Douglas.

John and Clara Ferguson also lived near Lexington, Nebraska, and homesteaded near Chugwater, Wyoming before moving to Merrick County around 1916. They lived first on the Widman Place, just north of what was then Nebraska Central College. From there they moved to the Ross farm north of town. The next and final residence for them was the Joyce Place, across the road east from Nebraska Central College, from about 1924 until 1954.

In 1939, it became necessary to move to Colorado for health reasons. While there, John learned and mastered the trade of painting, and upon their return to Merrick County, spent the remainder of his working years as a painter, painting many schoolhouses and homes in the community. But he always enjoyed keeping a small amount of livestock around and was a familiar figure at the Community Sale.

John and Clara were a contrast in size . . . He was a tall man for his generation at six feet two inches, and had red hair. Clara was small with dark hair and eyes, and her size belied her energy and endurance. Together they worked hard and yet found time to participate in community affairs and be neighbors. John was on the District #8 school board and served many years as Lone Tree Precinct Assessor. They were treasurers for the Millard Addition Electric Cooperative, served on the Township Election Board . . . John as a Democrat and Clara as a Republican . . . belonged to Farmers Union, and were faithful members of the Friends Church. Clara was honored by the Governor as Yeoman of the Nebraska Navy for her work on the Township Board. In later years, Clara worked in the Bookstore and office of Nebraska Central College, until it closed in 1952.

Their large fifteen room house on the College Section was open to many people over the years. They rented rooms out to college students. In later years, they made apartments on the second and third floors and rented them to faculty members. Clara's parents, Richard and Ellen Stokely, lived with them during their last years, the Stokelys having lived also on the College Section and near Archer.

John and Clara had three children: Hazel Marguerite Ferguson Roberts, now deceased; Dale Delbert Ferguson, now residing in Trenton, New Jersey; and Opal Elizabeth Ferguson Knott, currently residing in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

John died on December 15, 1954. Clara passed away April 8, 1976, having spent the last twenty of her years near her children and grandchildren in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Their lives were useful and well-lived . . . an inspiration to those of us who knew and loved them. *Submitted by Kay Roberts Mesner, Grand-daughter*

WILLIAM FERGUSON

The Ferguson family came from Iowa to Merrick County in 1902. William Boyd (born 1847) and his wife, Ida Cherryholmes (born 1856) and their children, Ethel, Bert, Boyd, Bessie, Leona and Mary, lived one mile south of District #25, east of Clarks, where the younger children attended school.

In 1911 the family moved north of Chapman in District #37 where William and Ida resided until their deaths.



William Boyd and Ida Ferguson



Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Ferguson

Bert married Flora Boettner in 1913 and returned to the Pierce Chapel area residing west of the Church many years and later north of Pleasant Hill. Their children are Harold, Ralph, Edith Eschliman Zachry, Carl, Glen, Mary Dittmer, and Earl.

Boyd married Ella Raecke in 1915 and farmed west and south of Pierce Chapel. Their children are Elvira Dexter and Dorothy Hobbs. Ella died in the flu epidemic of 1918. In 1923 Boyd married Pearl Wait. They had two sons, Lester and George. George died in 1948 in a tractor accident.

Bessie married Lawrence Bice. They resided in Wyoming. Two sons were born to them, Lawrence Jr. and Boyd.

Leona married Glen Price. They resided in Gothenburg and Colorado Springs, Colorado. They had one daughter, Bonnie Lee Magnuson.

Mary married Harold Myers. They spent their early married years in Central City and then lived in Rhode Island. They have two sons, Gerald and Barton.

Will was a man of strong character. His obituary reads "He was a man of pronounced views on political, moral and religious questions." He was a devout Christian and a Republican! He walked many miles, thinking nothing of walking to Central City, a distance of seven or eight miles, carrying home a sack of sugar or flour. Up until his last years he would drive his car into Chapman to be worked on, walk home, then walk back the next day to get it. He was lean, walked erect and had a snow white beard and hair.

Ida's chief interests were her home and church. They attended the Methodist Church in Chapman. She fell when papering, breaking her hip so walking was difficult her last years.

William died in 1937 and Ida in 1938. They are buried in the Chapman Cemetery. *Submitted by E. Dexter*

DAVID & RUTH FERRIS

Being a member of the fourth generation of Ferrises to live in this area, my roots go down deep in Merrick County. It is a real privilege to live and work in the land where your ancestors lived and worked.

I, David Ferris, the oldest child of Rexford and Donna Severance Ferris, was born April 6, 1938 in Central City. My entire life has been spent farming north of Central City. Many memories come to me from my early years: working as a family on a dryland farm during the 40's and 50's; getting irrigation in '53 and moving the sprinkler pipe over the corn during July and August; my sister and I riding Dixie, our saddle horse to and from school in District #51; having both sets of Grandparents close and being able to know and love them.

Following eighth grade graduation from District #51 I attended Central City High School graduating in 1956. From there I went to the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture graduating in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture. While at the University I was affiliated with Farm House Fraternity.

It was at the University where I met Ruth Bishop, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bishop of Fairbury, Nebraska. We were married in Fairbury on June 3rd, 1962. Ruthie taught Home Economics in the Thomas County High School at Thedford, Nebraska for one semester prior to our marriage and at Marquette High School for one semester following our marriage.

We have been engaged in farming since then. We purchased our farm in 1968 and have lived here since 1969. We moved into our new home in February of '76. We enjoy the blessing and challenges of farm life and feel especially fortunate to be able to raise our children on a farm with the diversified activities and animals which farm life affords.

Our home has been blessed with six children: Vonn was born in 1963 with Kirsten following in 1965. Mary Jo came to live with us in 1970 and Lei and Amy came from Viet Nam in June of 1975. Things were beginning to be somewhat routine until February 1980 when Emily Sue arrived with a flourish.

4-H projects consisting of cooking, clothing, sheep and goats keeps us all very busy along with extension club, church board, and Sunday school teaching. All the children attend Nebraska Christian Schools. We are happy for this opportunity to provide our children an education with a Biblical perspective.



David Ferris Family — 1980

My life and motives were changed drastically when, in 1970 I received Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. Knowing and serving the Saviour is an inexpressible joy and it gives me a longing for others to know Him. Ruthie and the five older children have since come to know Jesus and we seek to live each day in a way that would bring praise and glory to our Lord Jesus Christ. *Submitted by David Ferris April, 1981*

ELWIN FERRIS FAMILY

Elwin and Lucile Ferris are Merrick County natives. They purchased their farm in 1941 on "a dollar down and promise to pay method." This farm, located a mile and half west of Fariview Church was one of the very few in Merrick County with an irrigation well. At one time it was owned by Great Uncle Will and Great Aunt, Myra Johnston.

Elwin, the second child of Lee and Eva Hathaway Ferris, was born in their farm home near Archer in 1917. He grew up on this farm, and attended the Gardner School for the first ten years. His last two years were in the Central City High School. He spent two years in a short course at the University of Nebraska School of Agriculture.

Lucile, the fourth child of William and Goldie Culbertson Pressler, was born in a farm home near Central City in 1919. She attended schools in Districts #51, #19 and #23 for ten years. Her last two years in the Central City School. She attended



Lucile and Elwin Ferris — 1970

Nebraska Central College for two years. She taught District #14 in Merrick County for two years.

Elwin and Lucile were married in 1941 in the farm home of Lucile's parents at Cairo, Nebraska by a lady minister. They started their married life by buying the farm home they are living in. They are the parents of four children.

Beverly Jean was born in 1941 in Central City. She attended District #23 for her first eight years of school and graduated from the Central City High School. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska with a degree in Medical Technology. She and Thomas Thurber of Lexington were married in 1963. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska, and Iowa State University with a degree in Veterinary Medicine. He is in research in veterinary medicine in Lincoln, Nebraska. They are the parents of three children, Gail, Eric and Lee.

Ronald was born in Central City in 1945. He attended the Gardner School and graduated from the Central City High School. He attended the University of Nebraska for three years. He was in the Armed Services for three years. Most of that time was spent in Germany in the personnel department. He returned to the University of Nebraska. In 1978 Ron and Mary Sandin of Lincoln were married. They are owners of their own business, "Plant Talk," in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dea was born in 1954 in Grand Island. Her elementary education was in Gardner, graduating from the Central City High School. She graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in Art and Design. In 1976 Dea and Mark Nixon of Kearney, Nebraska were married. Mark was a graduate of the University with a degree in Industrial Engineering. Their home is in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Both work for the Williams Company.

Jay was born in Central City in 1963. He spent his entire schooling in the Central City School, graduating in 1981. He is entering the University this fall. *Submitted by Elwin and Lucile Ferris*

GALYNN FERRIS FAMILY

The 1941 Ford swayed and rattled down "The White Way" on that June afternoon. Yvonne Ferris was being driven by her husband, Lislynn, to Central City for the birth of their first child. A tire blew out before they reached Gagle's Station.

The spare tire was inadequate for the urgent errand and blew out at Warm Slough. My father continued on the disintegrating tire to the hospital. At 9:15 pm, Edward Galynn Ferris was born. Simultaneously, thousands of men were preparing to cross the English Channel to establish a beachhead at Normandy, France. It was June 5, 1944.

I began elementary school at Gardner School, District #23. The older boys taught me how to put a soap eraser in the furnace. The resultant stench was good for a half-day vacation.

My father and grandfather bought a new Piper Clipper in 1949. This was the beginning of my continuing enthusiasm for airplanes.

In 1958, I graduated from the eighth grade in ceremonies held in the newly-completed Merrick County 4-H Building.

I entered Central City High School in 1958, and

graduated with the Class of 1962. High school was held in the same building as when my father graduated in 1938.

In 1957, I began tuba lessons with Mark Crandell. I marched with the band throughout my high school years. In the summer, the band played every Thursday night at North Park.

In 1962, I entered the University of Nebraska and auditioned for the Cornhusker Marching Band. That year Bob Devaney became the head football coach there. My tuba lessons earned me trips to the Cotton Bowl, the Orange Bowl, the Sugar Bowl, and other Big Eight games.

I joined Triangle Fraternity and became a charter member of the Nebraska chapter. In 1967, I graduated from the College of Agriculture.

In 1968, I moved to Dallas, Texas, as a company representative for a specialty manufacturer. The urban lifestyle and company-paid travel appealed to me.

In January 1969, I went to Oak Grove airport in Fort Worth to enroll in the Duane Cole Aerobatic Flying School. That same day, a displaced California girl was interviewed and hired as secretary for the school.

Linda Marie Hartwell was a divorcee with two children: Paul Monroe, age eight, and Patricia Lynn, age three. By July we were engaged. On September 6, 1969, we were married in her parent's home church in Denham Springs, Louisiana.

I quit my job and in February 1970 we moved to our present home in rural Nance County. I entered into partnership with my father as the fourth generation of my family to farm in Merrick County.

In 1970, I adopted Paul and Patty. In 1972, our third child, Jillian Christine, was born. Paul graduated from Central City High School in 1979 and is now a computer programmer for the Marines in Kansas City. In the fall of 1981, Patty will be a sophomore at Central City High School and Jill a fourth grader at District #55, Nance County.

We have all been active in Fairview United Methodist Church.

It is my goal to continue the family farm as long as possible. *Submitted by Galynn Ferris*

GEORGE & MARY FERRIS

George Ferris and Mary Johnston both spent their childhood years near Galesburg, Illinois. At about the age of twenty-one, George went to Wyoming and worked in the coal mines at Rock Springs. In 1876 . he was returning to Galesburg with a friend, Elijah McKendry, who had homesteaded the Southwest Quarter, Range 2, Township 14, Section 7, and they stopped off at Central City, then known as Lone Tree. They inspected the McKendry homestead, and this resulted in him giving McKendry his gold watch, $200, and a $400 mortgage, for a deed to the quarter section.

He returned to Illinois, where he married Mary Johnston on December 27, 1876. Their first child, Maude Osborn, was born December 2, 1878, and on March 1, 1879, they came to the newly acquired farm northwest of Central City. Part of the original homesteader's cabin still exists in the interior of the house on these premises.



Mary Ferris with great grandson, David Ferris — 1939

They had four more children, Ora Sampson, Mamie Gardner, and sons Lee and Lisle. They were industrious, progressive and successful farmers, acquiring considerable other real estate. They were strong supporters of the Fairview Methodist church, and while possessed of no great amount of schooling themselves, they were strong supporters of the local school and advocates of higher education for all youth.

George Ferris could well be classified as fifty years ahead of his time. He was not only progressive, but an excellent carpenter and mechanic, with an inventive intuition. Even before the days of manure spreaders, when it had to be hauled out in a wagon, he had designed and had in operation a manure loader. Horses and dirt scoops were used to get the manure on a platform which was then elevated by horse power and dumped in the wagon. His only patented invention was a stack-form used for both hay and grain bundles in the days of stacking grain. This was manufactured in Central City for a time, but cheap labor limited its sale.

Using horse scrapers, he dug the location for a rather large pond just east of his house, and filled it with water produced by a windmill using several sand-points to produce a large stream. From this pond he irrigated quite a large garden and orchard. Back in the 1890's, after the whole family, and assorted helpers, had picked strawberries in the early morning, he would drive to Central City and sell them house-to-house at two boxes for 25¢.

The Ferris home was either the first, or among the very first to have electric lights (32 volt direct current) and running water and a bathroom. He had a horse-drawn mechanical cornpicker back before 1920, and one of the first tractors in the area about the same time.

George Ferris passed away November 27, 1921, but his visions of manure loaders, stack-forms, and of irrigation are evident to-day. Mary Johnston Ferris passed away July 25, 1942. They have numerous descendants, too many to name, living in Merrick County. Photographic proof of his inventions and enterprises have been preserved by a grandson, Donald F. Sampson.

JOEL FERRIS FAMILY

I was born June 8, 1949, to Lislynn and Yvonne Ferris. I have one brother, Edward Galynn, and a foster sister, Mrs. Cindi Catlett.

Growing up on the farm held lots of happy times for me. Grandpa Lisle was there, too. I remember him letting me drive the pickup when I was only eight. Everything went smoothly until my mom found out! How I enjoyed driving the tractors when the farm work had to be done! Guess that's where my interest in cars came from. Attending Gardner School, graduating from Central City High in 1967, and completing one semester at the University hold many fond memories for me, but none compare to my love of the farm.

After serving in the Army and working at other jobs, I started farming again in 1973. Farming and my hobby of cars kept me busy, and a happy bachelor. Then in 1977, a phone call from a friend of mine led to my marriage. Since then, I've enjoyed sharing daily tasks with Dee, so now she will tell her story.

On March 1, 1949, I was born at Oxford, Nebraska to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Esslinger. I grew up on a farm near Arapahoe with my three brothers and two sisters. I attended Arapahoe High, and graduated from Doane College in 1971. Seven years later, I received my Masters Degree from Kearney State.

The fall of 1971, I fulfilled a childhood dream of mine — to become a teacher. I shall never forget that first day in the classroom. Twenty-nine curious faces staring at me, and how frightened I was looking back at them. However, my nine years of teaching taught me to know the love and joy of children.

In 1977, my brother decided I had been single much too long. He took it upon himself to find a husband for me. Of course, he had in mind a friend



Joel and Dee Ferris

of his whom he felt needed someone to keep him company on the farm. At that time, my brother and Joel had one common interest, their love for cars, but now they have another, as Joel and I were married on July 1, 1978.

I shall never forget our wedding day, as we pulled away from the church in our Model T roadster, thinking "this is the happiest day of my life." Since then, Joel and I have had many wonderful times on the farm, working and traveling with our cars, and attending Fairview United Methodist Church.

Some time later, we realized a baby was soon to become a part of our lives. On September 21, 1980, Luke Allen was born. How we loved that little son of ours. However, our role as parents ended all too soon, as Luke died of S.I.D.S. on February 6, 1981.

Once again, there are just the two of us sharing our hopes and dreams on our corner in Merrick County, eleven miles northwest of Central City. *Submitted by Joel Allen and Deanna Faye Ferris*

LEE & EVA FERRIS

Lee Johnston Ferris was a lifetime resident of the Central City and Archer communities. He was born at the home of his parents, George H. and Mary Johnston Ferris, near Archer on April 3, 1889. As a child, he attended District #23 for eight years, later attending the Nebraska Central Academy, and the St. Paul Business School. He also took some schooling in the College of Agriculture at the University of Nebraska.

Lee was a devoted member of Fairview Methodist Church and worked actively toward its support and growth. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, was a County Supervisor from 1928 to 1932, and was very active in various agricultural programs of both Merrick County and the State of Nebraska. He was a progressive grain and livestock farmer and enjoyed gardening and bee-keeping. He also planted many shade and fruit trees during his lifetime. For many years he wrote the Fairview news items for the county paper.

Evaline Alice Hathaway was born near Missouri Valley, Iowa on February 15, 1890 and moved with her parents, James and Ella Bird Hathaway, to Merrick County in 1905. She attended Central City High School and graduated with the class of 1910.



Lee and Eva Ferris — 1952

She taught two years, one at District #21 and the other at District #51. She is a member of Fairview Methodist Church and has long participated in its many women's activities.

Lee and Eva met through activities at Fairview Methodist Church. They were married on June 19, 1912 in the Methodist parsonage in Archer. They started their married life on a farm five miles west and seven miles north of Central City, and lived on the same farm for their entire married life. Their first "home," while they built their house, was a shed which also housed farm animals in the other end.

They were the parents of five children: Rexford and Elwin who have farms north and west of Central City; Vivian Sander of Stillwater, Oklahoma; George who lives on the home farm; and Iris Metz of Morton, Illinois. They also raised a foster daughter, Esther, who later married Harry Bannister and has lived in the Wolbach, Nebraska area for many years.

Much of their social life evolved around the church and community. Sunday picnic dinners with family and friends were a regular occurrence at the Loup River pasture picnic grounds. They both enjoyed young people and encouraged them in their church and 4-H activities. After George had polio and needed therapy, Lee and Eva with the help of neighbors, built a swimming pool on the farm. This became a favorite recreation spot for the entire neighborhood.

Lee passed away on April 21, 1953 at the age of sixty-four and is buried in Burke Cemetery. After his death, Eva lived in the new little house which they had just completed across the road from their original home. In 1973 she moved to Merrick Manor, and has resided at Bethesda Care Center since 1978. *Submitted by Vivian Ferris Sander March, 1981*

LISLE & VIRGINIA FERRIS

George H. Ferris married Mary Johnston in Illinois in 1876 and moved to Nebraska several years later with their oldest daughter, Maude. Ora, Mamie, Lee, and I, Lisle, were all born in the house built around the original homestead cabin on the SW¼ 2-14-6 in Merrick County. I was born in 1894, a hot dry year that dried up the crops in midsummer, and I have been here ever since as a farmer and livestock man.

In 1909, Papa bought a fire-engine-red Model T Ford. I knew there was a redheaded girl at the Sullivan place, but the code of young people was severe. One didn't ask to take a young lady home from an event if she came with someone else, and Virginia always arrived with her brother *and* someone else. When we finally began to "see" each other, I took her riding on my Indian Chief motorcycle or in the red Ford. She still loves motorcycles and to drive almost anything; and has a better knowledge of the engine's insides than most ladies today.



Virginia and Lisle Ferris

Virginia's father, E.T. Sullivan, was a musician from New York, who played with John Philip Sousa on at least one occasion. He moved to Nebraska to farm, and married Mable Bartlett, a West Virginia school teacher. Virginia was their only daughter. She attended school in Archer or in the country, depending on the weather. She remembers hiding in road ditches with her little brother whenever she saw dust clouds ahead on the road, in fear of gypsies kidnapping him. She attended high school on the Nebraska Central College campus, riding the train to Archer on weekends to return home. She was never teased at school about her letters from Lisle, for everyone thought his handwriting was that of a girl.

We were married in a home wedding at 8 AM, August 23, 1916, and honeymooned in Yellowstone Park, where Lisle managed to save a carriage-load of tourists by jumping from the carriage to stop the runaway horses. We returned to move into a tiny house we had built in a grove just west of the Ferris homestead. Lisle continued to build the herd of Polled Hereford cattle begun by his father in 1913. We raised grains, pigs, and chickens, and stacked hay from a virgin hay meadow.

In 1921, when Papa died, we moved into the homeplace. Our son, Lislynn, was born in 1920, and our daughter, Greta Lea, in 1930.

Greta Lea's illness in 1937 eventually brought about a move to Denver to find other doctors. Lislynn and his wife Yvonne (Culbertson), took over the farming and Lisle divides his time between Nebraska and Colorado. Virginia teaches piano in Denver and is loved by her students, who find her understanding of the problems of today's young people and the plate of homemade cookies quite irresistable. Lisle is an insatiable reader and loves to watch Virginia's students. We both enjoy traveling, and flew to Hawaii to observe our Golden Wedding anniversary. *Lisle and Virginia Ferris*

LISLYNN & YVONNE FERRIS

Our marriage had a rather unusual beginning. The date was set for January 4, 1942 in Fort Scott, Kansas, where Yvonne lived. The evening of January third, Lislynn called to say there had been a blizzard, all roads were blocked; we would have to postpone the wedding.

So on January 8, 1942, we were married and drove back to Nebraska in below zero weather, in a 1940 Ford with a heater that burned your feet while you slowly froze.

Lislynn has always lived in the Fairview community. In August 1942, we moved into the family home, the house his father and grandfather had lived in. We continued to live there, remodeling occasionally, until 1972 when we built a home across the section on land we had purchased.

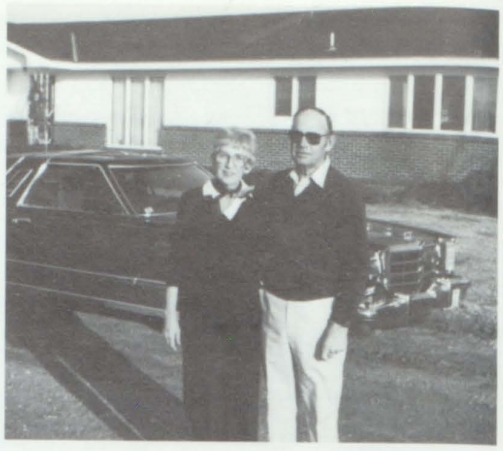
Two sons were born, Edward Galynn, June 5, 1944 and Joel Allen, June 8, 1949. In May 1966, Cynthia Casserly, age fourteen, came to live with us. That completed our family until 1969 when we began to acquire in-laws and grandchildren. Galynn married Linda Hartwell in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and we became parents-in-law and grandparents at the same time; for Linda brought Paul, age seven, and Patty, age two, with her. Jill was born to Galynn and Linda in 1972.

1969 was also the year Cindi married Dennis Catlett. They haye four children: Steve, ten; Patrick, nine; Michael, six; and Crystal, four years of age.

Joel served in the army in Viet Nam and Germany as an aircraft engine mechanic, and was discharged in 1971. He married Deanne Esslinger in July 1978. Their first child, Luke, was born in September 1980, and died of SIDS, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, in February 1981.

Lislynn is the son of Lisle and Virginia Sullivan Ferris; born October 14, 1920, and has a younger sister, Greta Lea Ferris Johnson. He attended District #23 rural school — one that included two years of high school; then graduated from Central City High School and attended Nebraska Central College.

Yvonne was the second of five daughters of Joe and Florence Brim Culbertson, born February 3, 1921. Her father worked for the Frisco Railroad and the family moved several times during her early years. During the depression, when the railroads laid off many of their employees, they lived in Merrick County; then moved back to Kansas as the economy picked up and the railroads re-hired their workers.



Yvonne and Lislynn Ferris

Yvonne graduated from Ft. Scott, Kansas, high school and Junior College, then taught school in Missouri.

Fairview United Methodist Church has been and continues to be an important part of our lives. Since it is a community church, the family has spent many hours as a part of the congregation. Yvonne has served in various capacities throughout the church, both locally and on a national level. *Submitted by Yvonne Ferris*

REXFORD & DONNA FERRIS

Rexford Lee Ferris, the first son of Lee and Eva Hathaway Ferris, was born March 15, 1913, at the home of his Grandmother, Mary Ferris, during a spring blizzard. He grew up on the family farm near Gardner School where he and his brothers, Elwin and George, and his sisters, Vivian and Iris, all went to school. Rex attended through the tenth grade and went on to graduate from Central City High School in 1931.

Donna Severance was born at the home of her parents, Ralph and Ella Halstead Severance, December 20, 1915. She and her sister, Helen, and her brothers, Bud and Phil, were all taught by their mother for a few years before they went to District #19 school. Donna and Phil drove "Old Mack" hitched to a cart the three and one-half miles to the school house. Donna graduated from CCHS in 1932.

On June 1, 1932 following a party at Willemans, Rex took Donna home. From then on he was a frequent caller in his green, 1929, Model A Ford convertible.

We were married at her home, March 9, 1937 and set up to farm, with horses, on the McElwain place,



Rex and Donna Ferris — 1981

just south of his parents home. We had several milk cows, a few hogs, some chickens, and a large garden. The cream and egg checks enabled us to get by those first years.

David was born April 6, 1938. In March 1940, we moved to a farmstead on SW¼ 24-15-7 and established a grain and livestock farm; welcoming a tractor in 1944, electricity in 1948, and irrigation in 1952. Our daughter, Julie (now Mrs. Richard Bringelson, with three daughters of her own), arrived April 11, 1941. Stanley, born April 20, 1948 and Steven, May 29, 1951, completed our family. We built a house in 1957.

4-H was an important part of our lives and we spent many years as 4-H parents and leaders. Most of the family fun was homemade but interesting with cousins, friends and pets. At various times the farm was the home of tame rabbits, a parakeet, two skunks, a racoon, ducks and geese, a horse and uncounted dogs and cats.

Our children attended Districts #51 and #23 (Steve) schools. They all are graduates of CCHS. Julie has a degree from Wesleyan, and the boys have degrees from UNL.

David and Ruth and their six children live on their farm about six miles away. Julie and Rich live in Lincoln. Steve is single and presently is teaching gifted children in Lincoln.

In 1973, when we bought the Severance farm from Helen and Bud, Stanley and Gail and their four children moved onto the farm at SW¼ 24-15-7.

We have been members of Fairview Church for over fifty years and there have done everything but preach and play the piano. Rex retired in 1980 and is busy doing all the things he hadn't time for before. We plan to do some traveling but hate to get too far away from our friends and our thirteen delightful grandchildren. *Submitted by Rexford and Donna Ferris, March 1981*

STAN FERRIS FAMILY

Stan and I were born in 1948 and raised in Mead Township. He's the son of Rexford and Donna Severance Ferris; I'm the daughter of Bill and Arnetta Reeb Gregg. We grew up only five miles apart, but ironically did not meet until eighth grade. At that time I was visiting town school and when there wasn't a chair available for me, he offered me his (so he could leave!).

Stan attended District #51 through third grade; the remainder of his education was in the Central City Public Schools. In 1970 he was graduated from UNL with a double B.Sc in Agriculture Economics and Agronomy. He was affiliated with FarmHouse Fraternity.

My elementary education was at District #33; my great grandfather, Frank Gregg, was an early teacher of this school. My high school education was received at Central City Public Schools. My childhood dream was realized when I became a registered nurse from Bryan Memorial School of Nursing in Lincoln in 1969. In 1979 I was graduated with a BSc in Psychology from Kearney State.

Our first date was December 2, 1963. We were married November 24, 1967, after completing our first year in college. We've lived in Lincoln, Hastings (during my summer psychology affiliation), and Mead Township. We presently reside on and own the home place where Stan was raised.



Stan Ferris Family

We have four children: Angela Michelle (August 1, 1970), Jennifer Jo (January 10, 1972), Megan Suzanne (August 4, 1975), and Greggory Charles (July 17, 1976). Our children are involved in church, school activities, swimming, piano, 4-H, library, preschool, choir, fire patrol, and softball. We feel fortunate to be raising our children in the country.

Stan's and my dream was always to return to the farm. We were born of farmers and plan to die as farmers. We love the country life.

As a child Stan used to farm by the hours from his tricycle in the backyard. Today, Stan's operation consists of corn, alfalfa, hogs, and cattle. Gregg is in "seventh heaven" when he's able to follow his dad around the farm!

I have worked as a registered nurse at Litzenberg Memorial County Hospital since we returned in 1970. I substitute as school nurse at Central City Pu6lic Schools sometimes. I love to practice my profession.

We are very concerned about family togetherness. We six enjoy horseback riding, snow skiing, bird watching, wiener roats, skating, bowling, reading, fishing, gardening, and traveling. Our German Shepherd, Duchess, had ten puppies in January 1981. It was such an exciting family event.

Stan and I are active in the Fairview United Methodist Church, Merrick County Pork Producers and Porkettes, bloodmobile donors, EMT-A's on the Palmer Rescue Squad, and CPR instructors. Stan serves on the fairboard for Merrick County; and I'm involved in Sandburr Sorority, 4-H leader, and other activities.

My mom is one in a million. She has instilled the following belief in me: "Live for today. Make the most of your marriage and treasure that relationship." *Submitted by Gail Gregg Ferris*

ARLO & EUGENIA FINLAYSON

Arlo Finlayson was born at Long Pine, Nebraska August 12, 1920 to William and Pauline Finlayson. He had one brother. They lived south of Bassett on a ranch until 1934. After his father died they moved to Lincoln, Nebraska where his mother took up the Beauty Trade. Later they moved to Gresham and lived a short while in Cozad.

Arlo graduated in Boulder, Colorado in 1938. They moved to Palmer, Nebraska where he worked at various jobs on the farm, creamery and James Rexall Drug Store. Working hours at the Drug Store then were from seven until eleven every other day and seven dollars a week. He worked at the Ordinance Plant in Grand Island and was drafted into the Army in 1942. He went to Ft. Lee, Virginia then to Camp Stoneman, California.

He married Eugenia Jensen March 10, 1943. She was born in Dawson County, Nebraska, October 24, 1922 to George and Ethel Lips Jensen. They lived in Pittsburg, California while Arlo was in service. Genie worked for a Clothing Altering Company. Later they were moved to Ft. Lewis, Washington. Arlo was sent to Okinawa in June 1945 with a short stay in Hawaii. Genie came back to Central City and helped her parents in the Hatchery. Arlo returned to the states in 1946 and worked in the Hatchery. In 1949 Finlaysons started the Riteway Bowling Alley with Sam Hammons Jr. where the Munn Furniture store is now.

Morris Johnson then became a partner with Arlo in the Bowling Alley until in the early 50's Arlo bought the Johnson's interest. Arlo was also a part time postal employee, substituting on the rural route for Hi Galusha. He was also active with the Little League baseball. In 1956 the Alleys were sold to George Kuhn.

In September 1957 they moved to Sheridan, Wyoming where Arlo was appointed District Manager for Farmers Insurance Group for a three County District.

In 1970 Finlaysons bought the McCullough Insurance Agency and moved back to Central City and bought the Spence Shoppe for their home.

Finlaysons helped with the starting of the Newcomers Club, Round Up Club and Senior Citizens monthly supper and card parties. Arlo also helped start the Merrick County Mental Health organization. They are active in the Methodist Church and



Mr. and Mrs. Arlo Finlayson
1981

with the Wesleyans Group. Genie was also active in the Cub Scouts along with her jobs in the insurance office for Arlo. She also did altering of clothing. She is now an active saleslady for Luziers products.

The Finlaysons have three sons, Lynn born March 1, 1946. He is a Railroad Operator at Alliance, Nebraska. Steve born May 27, 1949, is a Mechanic for the Classic Car Company in Denver. Rocky was born October 14, 1956. He is employed by Mutual of Omaha and works part time for Finlayson Insurance Company. *Submitted by Mrs. Arlo Finlayson*

CLYDE FISHBURN FAMILY

Clyde (Jim) Fishburn was born to George and Eva Fishburn, January 1888, on a farm five miles east of Chapman. The family farm adjoined the Platte River, affording much fishing, hunting and swimming. Wild geese were so plentiful, Jim with his brothers and sisters and the help of a faithful dog would scare them off the wheat fields.

In 1907, Jim and his brother, Clarence, rented a farm east of Chapman, known as the Colby farm. In addition to raising lots of hogs and cattle, they did custom shelling. Clarence died in 1916. Jim continued to farm.

In September 1921, he married Mabel Volkman, daughter of Emil and Maggie Volkman. Mabel was born April 1899, near Central City, moved with her folks to Chapman, in 1904. In 1914, when her parents took over the telephone office, Mabel became a telephone operator. There was no electricity at this time, so all ringing was done with a hand crank. Since the office was on main street, women would call in and ask if we would locate their husbands and tell them to call home, or in sickness, please find Dr. Triplett and sent him to the home. In case of death, it meant that we might be asked to call the undertaker and notify relatives. The office closed at 10 P.M. but service was available in case of emergency. Mabel also worked at the Ury Drug Store and for the Farmer's Co-Op Store till her marriage when she became a farm wife.

Farming was then done with horses which meant getting up at the crack of dawn during the farming season to milk cows, feed hogs and cattle and harness several head of horses. It was necessary to have one or two hired men and more during the harvest.

In the early 1930's came the depression and the drought which lasted many years. Both took their toll — many farmers losing everything they had. Livestock died from eating dirt in their feed caused by the terrible dust storms.

To supplement the family income during these years, Jim cut and sawed wood which he sold by the trailer load in Chapman and Grand Island. A load of wood sold for $3 to $4. By the 1940's, irrigation came, rain was more plentiful, farming was done with tractors and bigger machinery.

In 1961, Jim and Mabel bought a home and moved to Chapman. Jim died in November, 1967, after a long illness. Mabel still maintains the home in Chapman.

Jim was a member of the Masonic Lodge and both were members of Eastern Star serving as Worthy Patron and Worthy Matron in 1947. Mabel received her fifty-year pin from Eastern Star in 1975.

Both belonged to the Methodist Church, Mabel



George and Mabel Fishburn Family — 1904
Back l-r — Pearl, Clyde, Clarence, Etta. **Front** — Clara, Harry, Jennie.

receiving her fifty-year pin in 1975. She is still active in church and United Methodist Women, having served as president and holding several other offices, being a UMW member for fifty-seven years.

Their three children are: Mrs. Dale (Norma) McMillan, Grand Island, Jimmy married (Billie Lewis), and Mrs. Robert (Joan) Manning of Chapman. There are eight living grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

GEORGE P. FISHBURN

Born in the historic Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, near Staunton, in 1860, George Phillip Fishburn distinctly remembered, although very young, the event of Sherman's March to the Sea, as his parent's home was in the path of that destructive raid. His ancestors immigrated to this country from Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, settling in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, in 1749.

The great grandfather of George was a gunsmith, making and repairing guns in the Revolutionary War. Levi Fishburn, George's father, operated a grist mill near Staunton, Virginia, and raised tobacco. During the Civil War, the Northern soldiers confiscated his flour mill and flour that had been milled. Because their land was ravaged during the Civil War, the Fishburn family moved from Virginia to Iowa later returning to Virginia. George remained in Iowa.

At the age of fifteen, he came to Chapman, Nebraska, walking and driving a herd of cattle the entire distance for his uncle, taking three weeks to make the trip. Streams had to be forded because bridges were few and far between. George spent one year on a farm, helping build a mill race and attending District #3 in the winter, then beginning four generations of Fishburns attending that school. Returning to Iowa, the next year, he later married Margaret Eva Clemens, born in 1862, to John and Mary Clemens. Her father, John Clemens, traveling with a caravan through Nebraska, bound for the California Gold Rush in 1849, carving his name on Lone Tree along with many others who journeyed this route. In California, he boarded a ship which sailed around Cape Horn to New York, returning to Iowa, where he married Mary Allen.

In 1887, with his wife and three children, George moved to Nebraska, to a farm he rented near the old mill race, part of the Brewer flour mill, close to the Platte River, about five and one-half miles east of Chapman. Wild life was in abundance, fish and game supplying most of the meat for the families. The river banks were covered with plums, grapes, sand cherries and buffalo berries which the families depended on for fruit and jellies. Living so close to the river, the children were all excellent swimmers and became adept at hunting and fishing. Many times during those first years, small bands of Indians would follow the Platte River on horseback stopping at the farmstead begging for food and ear corn.

In 1906, the Fishburns purchased a farm east of Chapman, living there forty-one years until their deaths in 1937 and 1939. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1933. George was a good neighbor and friend and was often called to homes where there was illness or death.

They were charter members and staunch supporters of the Chapman Methodist Church, Mrs. Fishburn also being a faithful member of the Ladies Aid.

Eight children were born to this union: Pearl Kennedy, Etta Jarman, Clarence, Clyde, Jennie Hueneke, Clara Knight, Harry, and an infant daughter. All are deceased except Pearl Kennedy, ninety-seven, residing in Washington, Iowa.

McKENDRIE R. FISHBURN

McKendrie Riley Fishburn, son of David Alpheus and Caroline Fishburn was born in Staunton, Virginia, November 20, 1852. At three years of age he and his parents moved to Bloomfield, Iowa. In 1871 he came to Chapman, Nebraska where he lived most of his life except for a few years in Denver.

There were eleven children in his family. His father Alpheus Fishburn was a Sergeant with Captain Wm. Fairborn Co. D of Iowa Infantry veterans volunteers. He served with the army of Tennessee under Gen. U.S. Grant at the seige and capture of Vicksburg, then his detachment was sent to Meridan, Mississippi. On that raid some of his company obtained an old violin which they brought back. On July 3rd 1863 Alpheus played the violin to celebrate the fall of Vicksburg. He brought the violin home during a furlough and planned to play it again at the front at Ottumwa, Iowa, but his company advised him to leave it at home. Riley, his son was along and took the violin home to keep until his father returned. The markings on the violin were: G-io-Paola Magini Fecit Brixie 1694.. Alpheus Fishburn was in Sherman's March to The Sea and the Grand Parade in Washington.

The old violin was left to Riley's son Charles (Bun) and at his death passed to his daughter Phyllis Fishburn McGeorge. Riley Fishburn was married in 1882 to Emma Vermillion. She was born June 15, 1859 in Illinois. The couple had two children, Laura Mae, who married Luther Cahow, and Charles who married Marian Carter. Gerald Vaughn Cahow and Phyllis Fishburn McGeorge were the only grandchildren.

During the couple's residence in Denver, Riley was a baggage man on the railroad on a run between Denver and Council Bluffs, Iowa. Riley, Emma and son Charles lived on a farm northeast of Chapman for many years. Around 1923 they moved into Chapman, having purchased the home formerly owned by Dr. Triplett. Emma Fishburn was an active member of the Chapman Baptist Church, the Eastern Star and W.C.T.U. Mrs. Fishburn died August 11, 1928. Riley Fishburn was a faithful member of the Chapman Baptist Church, was a charter member of Friendship Lodge No. 239 A.F. and A.M. at Chapman, Nebraska and a charter member of Berkeley Lodge No. 134 A.F. and A.M. of Denver, Colorado.

He was an excellent violinist and played in the town orchestra. He was still playing the instrument until his eighty-seventh birthday.

The violin was passed on to his great, great granddaughter Janet Murray of Omaha, who played it in school orchestras for seven years. Riley made his home with his daughter and son-in-law, the Luther Cahows, after his wife's death. He died on October 25, 1941 after a very brief illness. He and Emma are buried in the Chapman cemetery. *Submitted by Edith Cahow*

CLARENCE "BUCK" FLEMING

My father, Clarence "Buck" Fleming wasn't exactly unfamiliar with Chapman when he moved there in the spring of 1924. Prior to that, he had lived two miles south of the Hamilton County Bridge. This was a mostly Swedish community. Since my mother couldn't speak Swedish, none of us learned the Swedish language. Most church services in the Monroe Church where we attended were in Swedish. After the death of my mother in 1918, he started taking us children, Lois, Kenneth, and Nell to the Baptist Church in Chapman. Rain or shine, he hitched up a team to a spring wagon or buggy and we would go to Sunday School and Church. Lois can remember crossing the Wood River bridge when the water covered the floor of the buggy. Rather than going around the road, he would go through fields and pastures. Kenneth remembers when going down a steep hill, he would put a post thru the spokes of the rear buggy wheels so they would slide down.

My father was also a lover of sports. He would hitch a team of horses to a spring wagon, and load up the three of us, and drive to Chapman to practice basketball with the town team. He earned his nickname of "Buck" because he played baseball like some league player in Omaha. This love of sports continued thru his lifetime. He usually attended the home games in Clarks in which his grandsons played.



Jackie with Clarence Fleming 1957

His old chain-drive truck was a familiar sight driving around Chapman delivering ice. Everyone had ice boxes then instead of refrigerators. During the winter, when the ice in the Platte River got thick enough, the neighbors would cut ice, pack it in sawdust in their ice houses. One of these ice houses was behind the present-day fire station. During the summer, he would dig it out of the sawdust to deliver to homes in town and the country.

Kenneth thought he got started hauling gravel by taking it to a place where they made cement blocks. He started delivering gravel from a gravel deposit east of Henry Kortums. He used a team of horses, and loaded the gravel by scooping it on, one yard to a load. The wagon had side boards with 2 x 4's across the bottom. Kenneth remembers stuffing knotholes and leaks in the 2x4's and sides with hay and grass to keep the gravel from sifting through. When it was time to unload, they would tilt the 2 x 4's and the gravel would fall to the ground. Later he bought a gravel pump and started making gravel pits. Farmers with trucks would sometimes haul the gravel to the roads. Many pits around Chapman were started by him. At first, they used horses and scoops to clear the dirt off the top of the gravel. One time the team of horses got too close to the edge of the pit, and fell in and drowned.

My father married Edna Peterson in August of 1945. They had one daughter, Jacqueline Lea, who grew up in the Chapman community also.

During his lifetime, he saw many changes in our country. As a boy, he could remember Indians roaming his parents' farm. He had to haul his grain

to the Chapman elevator with a team of horses. He told about a man with a team of horses trying to beat the train to the crossing. All were killed. So there were railroad fatalities many years ago.

Clarence Fleming died April 4, 1963 at the age of 77 years. *Written by Nell Vergo*

EDNA DENMAN FLEMING

Edna Denman, daughter of Frank and Mabel Balmat Denman, was born April 17, 1906, in Canon City, Colorado. After attending Nebraska Central Academy and College, she taught in Hall and later Merrick Counties from 1927-1930.

In 1942, she returned to Nebraska Central College to renew her teaching certificate. Her twin children, Charles and Charlotte Peterson, by her first marriage, were then nine years of age. Edna was a primary teacher in Chapman from 1943-1945.

Clarence Fleming and Edna Peterson were married August 19, 1945. They had one daughter, Jacqueline, born June 7, 1946. They were active members of the Chapman Baptist Church, and Edna gave piano lessons and did substitute teaching. Clarence was a gravel contractor and active member of the Chapman Fire Department.

Clarence had three children: Nell married John Vergo and taught fifth grade in the Central City Schools. They have four children and seven grandchildren. Nell passed away in August, 1980. Kenneth served in the Air Force in England and now lives in Phoenix, Arizona. Lois married Bill Larson, and they live on Lake McConnaughey near Ogallala.

Charles and Charlotte Peterson attended Chapman High School their Junior and Senior years, graduating in 1948. Charlotte then worked for the Navy Department as clerk-typist in Washington, D.C., and was graphotype operator in Lincoln. She married Lyle Raser March 5, 1950, in the sanctuary of the Chapman Baptist Church. They now reside at Fort Collins, Colorado, where Lyle is a trucker. They have four children and one grandchild.

Charles Peterson was employed at Boss Glove Factory in Grand Island. He married Katherine Ahl in December, 1950, in the Chapman Baptist Church. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1953, and was stationed at a base in the Phillipines for thirteen months. They now reside at Thornton, Colorado, where Charles is an accountant for the Rio Grande Company in Denver. They have two children and one grandchild.

Jacqueline attended Chapman Public School through the eighth grade, and graduated from Central City High School in 1964. Her father, Clarence, passed away on April 4th, 1963. Jackie and her mother moved to Alda in 1964 to live with her grandfather, Frank Denman. Jackie attended Kearney State from 1964-1968, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in education in 1968.

In 1965, Edna was a teacher of the Kindergarten Class in the Chapman School. In the fall of 1970, Edna's father passed away and they moved back to Chapman.

Jacqueline was a fifth-grade teacher in Minden Public Schools from 1968-1972. She was consultant for Houghton and Mifflin Company from 1972-1975. From 1975-1980, she was Director of Title I-Headstart in Garden City, Kansas, where she also operated a boutique shoppe for three years. Jackie now lives in Franklin, Nebraska, and teaches in Bloomington Public Schools.

Edna moved to Central City in 1973, and now lives in the Bader Villa Apartments. She is a member of the Friends Meeting, Rebeccahs, Pythian Sisters, and Live and Learn Club. She also plays in the Rhythm Band, sings with Lone Tree Singers *and Silver Tones, and participates in activities at the Multi-Purpose Center. Submitted by Edna Denman Fleming*



Edna, Jackie, and Clarence Fleming

JANE REEVES FOGLAND

I was born September 13, 1892 to G.R. Reeves and Sarah Jane Wilson Reeves. My father, George Robert Reeves, was born December 7, 1854 in Taylor County, Kentucky. My mother, Sarah Jane Wilson, was born February 29, 1852 at Cadis Junction, Ohio. My father came to Merrick County in 1880, returning later to bring his wife and son, John, from Indiana. To this marrige to Catherine Kelly were born two other sons, George and Charlie. After Catherine Kelly's death in 1885, my father and mother were married, and besides myself, they were the parents of Mary McMillan, Wayne Reeves, Rae Croshaw, and Hattie Reeves. Mary, Hattie and Jane were all Merrick County school teachers.



G.R. and Sarah Reeves Family

Sarah Jane Reeves died on August 31, 1921 and G.R. Reeves died January 22, 1931, and they are buried in a mausoleum on the family plot in the Central City Cemetery. The obituary for G.R. Reeves was prepared by Dr. Fred Fouts and a part of it reads "Robert Reeves was a quiet unassuming man. Of untiring industry, thrift and the highest integrity, he was widely known and respected as an outstanding example of that sturdy pioneer stock which has made this country what it is today . . . He was a firm believer in the Christian faith. While not a member of any Church, he generously supported the Friends Church and Nebraska Central College . . ."

My marriage to Harry Fogland took, place in Grand Island on December 31, 1918, and most of the fifty years of our married life were spent on a farm near Palmer until Harry's death in April 1969. Our children are Adeline (Mrs. Billy Green) of Archer, who has two daughters, Shelley Buchholz and Sarah Jane Barth, both of Lincoln, Nebraska. My other daughter is Sarah Jane (Mrs. Lloyd) Willkens of Grand Island and her two children are: Lona Hadden of Lincoln and Craig Willkens at home. *Submitted by Jane Fogland*

EDO & KATHERINE FOLKERTS

Edo and Katherine Folkerts migrated from Madison, Wisconsin, to a farm six miles north and one mile east of Central City, Nebraska, about 1880. They had three daughters and one son. Anna became the wife of John Hummel of Central City. Margaret married Louis Joseph of Polk. Edward C. was born in Wisconsin on May 4, 1879. He and his sister Margaret attended District #21.

Edward married Anna Miller in 1904. They bought 160 unimproved acres across the road east of Edo Folkerts' farm. Edward died in January 1907, leaving his widow and two year old daughter, Bertha.

Anna Folkerts remarried in 1910: Fred Kanter, here from Wisconsin to visit his cousin Otto Roschlitz, son of August Rochlitz. Fred and Anna built the house and other buildings on the land and lived there until October 1920. Fred's health forced them to move to Central City and there Bertha finished her high school education. She graduated in 1922 and began her teaching career in District #42S that fall. She taught in District #21 in 1923-24.

In 1924, Kanter's bought the eighty acres east of District #21. This they sold in 1940 to John Hake. Fred's health was such that he could no longer work, so they moved back to Central City. He passed away October 1946. Anna continued to live in Central City, the last seven years with her daughter, Bertha. She died November 1963.

Bertha married Ralph Hamilton at her parents' home in January 1925. They moved to the home which the Kanter's had built and they lived there for thirty-one years. They had three children who attended District #21. Wendell is now a Lutheran pastor. Milton is an electronic engineer in Glendora, California. Della Mae is a registered nurse in Minatare, Nebraska. Milton and Della Mae graduated from Central City High School. Wendell graduated from Lutheran Seminary of Springfield, Illinois.

In 1954, Bertha began her college education in summer school and off-campus courses. She taught in District #13 for three years, 1954-57. She began teaching in Central City in 1957. She taught fifth grade there for thirteen years and retired in 1970. She returned to the school system that same fall to teach Remedial Reading in the city schools. She taught for another three years, ending her career in 1973.

Ralph and Bertha moved to Central City in 1956, and their daughter Della Mae and her husband Harvey Lofing moved to their farm place. Ralph and Bertha furnished a home for her mother until she died.

Ralph worked for Martson's Ag Service and retired in 1973, then the couple moved to Minatare to be near their daughter.

In 1973, Harvey and Della Mae bought a farm north of Minatare and left the Central City area. The three Lofing children were born at Central City and the two boys, Allan and Gary, attended District #21 school. Karen entered our city schools because at that time District #21 was closed and the pupils were taken to Central City.

Ralph and Bertha moved to Minatare in 1974, and now live at 810 Avenue B, Minatare, Nebraska 69356. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hamilton*

CORNELIUS & SARA FORD

Cornelius R. Ford and Sarah L. Bice were married February 12, 1902 and spent their entire married life, with the exception of a very short time in Grand Island, in Merrick County.



Coney and Sarah Ford and Daughters

Cornelius, better known as Coney Ford was born May 23, 1878, on a farm near Worms, Nebraska, now owned by Lloyd Windfield. His mother died when he was very young leaving his father, Simon Ford, with three small children, Estella, Charlie and Cornelius. The father then married Aseneth Wiley who had one son, Bert.

After the death of the father and stepmother, the step son inherited the farm home. Coney and Charlie rented land in the Prairie Creek community as bachelors. Estella married D. Morgan Newlon and settled in the Fairview community. Charlie went to Chicago to work for the railroad and Coney married the district school teacher, Sarah Bice.

Sarah Bice was the daughter of James Ozra and Hannah Bice. She was born September 9, 1878 in Dallas County, Iowa. She had one brother, Corwin Bice. Her mother died when she was only two years of age, her brother four. The father was forced to leave his children with foster parents in New York until he married Annie Blacklock and established a home in Vieregg Township. Sarah became a school teacher, teaching in District #32 and later in District #44 where she met Coney Ford. They were married and established their first home on the John Newlon farm in Prairie Creek Township. Eventually they bought the farm, where Coney was born, from his step brother.

There were three daughters born to them, Dorothy Anderson, Anna Knight, and Lola Roark Beetem.

In 1918 they bought the meat market in Chapman and rented the farm to Alfred Bader. The farm called him back and he sold his business to Howard Raser and Duncan Triplett. After four years he bought the meat market back, and started buying cream for the Farmers Co-op in Aurora. He sold the farm to Thomas Windfield.

The family worked very hard in this business. Several mornings a week Coney would arise at 4 a.m., take his Model T. truck to Slegels ice plant in Central City, load it with 100 lb. blocks of ice, deliver it to rural customers for their ice boxes, and bring the rest to the meat market, dragging it up to the top of the meat cooler with a hand pulley. He butchered much of his meat, bought from farmers and evenings bought and hauled poultry from farmers.

On Saturday night after closing hours, many times eleven o'clock, the cream cans were loaded and hauled to the creamery in Aurora, returning home at an early morning hour.

Never the less, Sunday mornings meant Sunday School and Church. They were devoted members of the Baptist Church. He belonged to the Masonic Lodge and she to the Eastern Star.

Coney passed away February 9, 1933. Sarah kept the old home and gave many teachers a home for board and room. She passed away July 23, 1941. They are buried in the old Grand Island Cemetery. *Submitted by Anna Knight*

PHILIP FOULK FAMILY

Philip Foulk of Archer and Joan Jefferson of Central City began life together November 8, 1953 at Fairview Methodist Church of Rural Central City. Phil's parents, Percy Foulk and Marjorie Sinsel were married June 20, 1928 at Rural Archer in the home of Marjorie's parents, Cleon Keys Sinsel and Jessie Frazier. Jessie Frazier came to Merrick Co. in 1877 at the age of six.

Joan's parents, Frank Jefferson and Anna Nielsen were married July 13, 1930 at Madison, Nebraska. Frank had come to Merrick Co. in 1909 with his parents and Anna was born in Central City. Frank's parents, John H. Jefferson and Anna Jewell (the sixth white child born in Merrick Co.) were married in her parent's home three miles east of Central City. Anna Jewell had been teaching school in Palmer and had gone to Madison to visit relatives, there she met John and after a year of correspondence they were married and began farming in the Madison area.

Phil and Joan began farming in 1954 on a place two miles southwest of Clarks in the District #5 and #50 neighborhood. Four children were born, Thomas L. died in 1977) Robert D. married Jan Burnett of Shreveport, Louisiana. Donald R. married Robin Walgren of Osceola and Julie A., a tenth grade student of Clarks High School.

Church, school, civic and fraternal organizations have been a part of their lives. Joan has taught Sunday School for over 20 years, has served as Church Treasurer of Pierce Chapel and now is a co-sponsor of Jr. high church youth. She works part time in the office of the Farmers Co-op of Clarks.

Phil presently is a member of the Merrick County A.S.C.S. Committee, is Clarksville township Clerk, Secretary of Solar Lodge 134 A.F. and A.M., Chairman of Pierce Chapel Administrative Council and has served on District #50 and District #15 school boards. He spends part of his time installing wells and plumbing. Merrick County has been good to this family and it is a great place to live. *Submitted by Joan Foulk*

DR. FRED FOUTS

Fred Fouts was born January 23, 1877 in a two room log house, three miles northwest of Central City.

His parents, Silas and Sarah (Weeks) Fouts came from McConnelsville, Ohio, a few years earlier.

His mother died when he was three years old, (February 8, 1880). His father moved to Osborne, Kansas to be near other relatives and Fred graduated from Osborne High School. He then attended Bellview College near Omaha for three years and entered Creighten Medical College where he received his degree in 1902. He set up his practice in Central City that year.

While attending Osborne, Kansas High School, he met Nellie C. Boring and they were married on August 8th of 1900.

He was called to China as a medical missionary in 1905 but because of his wife's health it was necessary to return to America in 1912. He returned to Central City and again set up practice here.

In 1918 he sold to Dr. J.W. Hutchison of Marquette, Nebraska, and spent about two years in training for Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat in Chicago, New York City and New Orleans, Louisiana.

He went into partnership with Dr. Hutchison for two years and then limited his practice to the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat until 1960 when he retired.

His wife died in 1933 and on June 12, 1935 he married Wilma E. Weber. She had been his assistant for fourteen years at that time and continued to assist him in his medical and surgical work until his retirement.

Fred was a very active member of the Presbyterian Church for seventy years, serving many offices locally and statewide.

He was a 33rd degree Mason and was grand master of the Grand Council of the State of Nebraska, in 1956.

He died March 18, 1962 at age eighty-five. He, his wife, Nellie, his parents, three of his brothers and an infant sister are buried in the Central City Cemetery.

His wife Wilma was the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Turner) Weber. She was born two miles east of Archer on January 3, 1901, three years after her parents moved from Ohio to Merrick County.

Wilma still lives in the home that Fred built in 1915 at 1919 17th Ave. She has been a member of the Presbyterian Church for over sixty years.

Their daughter Eileen took nurses training at St. Francis School of Nursing in Grand Island, Nebraska, graduating in June of 1945, and while serving in the Cadet Corp., she met Earl L. Cooper of Hanover, Pennsylvania when he was stationed in Kearney. They were married on June 2, 1946. They reside in Pennsylvania and have four children and four grandchildren. *Submitted by Wilma Fouts*

T.J. FRASER FAMILY

The daughter of Theodore C. and Portia Marsh Reeves, I was born in rural Chapman Township in August of 1934. Dr. J.W. Hutchinson came to the home to assist in my delivery, this being the common practice of that time.

Early recollections of my childhood outside the home center on regular attendance at the Chapman Baptist Church where we rarely missed a service. My mother has served as organist there for over forty years, and my father contributed leadership in various capacities.

Many of our social activties during my early years centered around family reunions. These occurred at Grandmother Helena (Mrs. John C.) Reeves', who lived only three-quarters of a mile away or at grandmother and grandfather Fred A. Marsh's home which was ten miles north of our home, near Archer, Nebraska. Hopefully our old, undependable car with no heater would get us there and home again safely. A really big event was to get to stay all night with the grandparents or with one of our many cousins.

Accompanied by older brother, Don, and younger sister, Kay Kathleen, and in later years younger brother, Ladd, we walked the one-half mile every day to school District #39 where we received our education through the eighth grade.

Special memories of the rural school days are carrying lunches to school in syrup buckets, the Christmas programs of recitations and playlets, the monthly PTA meetings, and sitting around the big, old coal stove drying out our clothes after falling in snow drifts walking to school. How those mittens and boots did smell when we scorched them drying them too close to the stove!

After graduating from the Central City High School, I attended the University of Nebraska where I received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Home Economics in 1956. This same year I was married to Thomas Jefferson Fraser of Bonne Terre, Missouri. For our honeymoon we drove to Dallas, Texas, where T.J. finished his senior year of seminary at Southern Methodist University and I taught at a school for retarded children.

In 1957, we returned to Nebraska where my husband has served as a United Methodist pastor in the following communities — Genoa, Norfolk, Bloomfield, Gering, Wauneta, and Pawnee City.

We are the parents of four children — Paul Jon born in 1959 and deceased in 1963, Thomas Lindell born in 1961, Theodore Philip born in 1964, and Laurel Elizabeth born in 1968. Both sons have been active in Boy Scouts and have attained the Eagle Scout rank while Laurel participates in numerous 4-H projects.

In addition to his ministerial duties, T.J. has served on various state level boards including Jobs and Health planning. He was a delegate to the 1968 National Democratic Convention in Chicago. Piano teaching and pre-school child care have been my special interests through the years.

Being a direct descendant of the first settler in Merrick County, Jason Parker, I marvel at all that has taken place in these boundaries since he first settled here in 1858. *Submitted by Virginia Reeves Fraser*

AUGUST FRANK FAMILY

August Frank was born August 31, 1865, in Schlewig-Holstein Germany, and died November 10, 1935, at the farm home after a short illness. Mr. Frank was raised in Germany, where he received his schooling. As a child he was confirmed in the German Lutheran Church in Germany. At the age of eighteen years, he came to America and located at Davenport, Iowa, in 1883, where his brother, Henry, was living.

In 1886 he came west to Hall County, Nebraska, where other relatives and friends were living. He worked in sugar beet fields when first coming to Hall County.

August and Margaretha Elhers were married in 1887, in Hall County, living in a sod house south of the sugar beet factory, Grand Island, Nebraska.

Margaretha Elhers was the daughter of Henry (born July 20, 1836 — died in 1911) and Bertha Geise (born 1835 — died in 1912). Both came from Germany in 1850, to Davenport, Iowa. Leaving there in 1886, they settled on a farm northeast of Chapman, Nebraska.

Children of August and Margaretha Frank:

Walter, born March 1888 — died 1960. Hattie, born February 18, 1892 — died February 19, 1940 — married Edward Hensley November 27, 1912 (born December 4, 1886 — died June 14, 1940), Cecelia, born March 14, 1893 — died June 1948 — married Wm. Kohlscheen 1911 (born March 16, 1887 — died 1952). Elise, born May 3, 1894 — died February 25, 1930. Amelia, born June 26, 1892 — died October 1, 1935 — married Wm. Henderson (born August 26, 1892 — died January 13, 1975). Bertha, born August 7, 1896 — died 1981 — married Arthur Hein (born August 30, 1890 — died



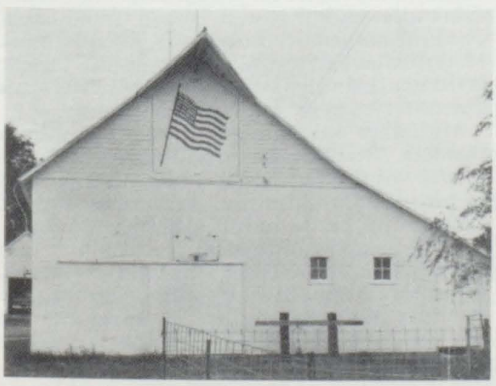
The August Frank Family

1959. Anna, born November 21, 1899 — died November 21, 1976 — married George Green (born February 27, 1890). Amanda, born January 12, 1901 — died January 18, 1957 — married Ray Smith born February 27, 1894 — died 1975). Nina, born April 9, 1902 — died 1963 — married Wm. Peterson (born August 13, 1922 — died December 21, 1952). Arnold, born June 23, 1903 — married August 24, 1927 — Bernice Bice (born October 30, 1904 — died 1977).

The Frank family moved to the home one-half mile north of District #39 school house where they built a new house in 1910, which was very spacious for farm homes of the times. They had carbide gas for lighting system throughout the house, also one of the first bathrooms in Merrick County, plus running water supplied by windmills to pressure tank into basement of house. One barn was built in 1907 with a large hay loft door on which Mrs. Frank hand painted the American Flag — which remains on the door to this day. (T.C. Reeves purchased the farm in 1937. Reeves has diligently kept the flag painted brightly.) Mrs. Frank was very artistically inclined, not only painting and sketching, but making wreaths from berries, nuts, grains and wreaths which she framed herself, and other crafts of the day. She lived in the new house just little over one year, passing away in Omaha, Nebraska, during surgery for gall bladder at age of forty-four, leaving her husband and nine children.

Mr. Frank was a member for thirty-three years of District #39 school board where all the children attended.

Mr. Frank was naturalized as a citizen of U.S.A. in Hall County, September 6, 1906. *Submitted by Maxine Connor*



Former August Frank Barn presently T.C. Reeves Farm

PAUL FRAUEN

Paul Frauen came to America in 1866 from Holstein, Germany. He stopped in Schott County, Iowa, for three years and traveled to Nebraska in 1869. He and his brother, Claus, each took up an eighty acre homestead six miles northeast of Grand Island in western Merrick County. He journeyed for fourteen hours with oxen to Lone Tree (south of Central City) to secure his first homestead papers before Judge Brewer; later this same trip could be made in one hour. This was at the time of a terrible grasshopper invasion of the country.

In 1870, Paul and Claus raised the first corn crop, and started raising cattle extensively and sold them in the Black Hills region. The log barn on Paul's homestead was at one time the largest in the county. The logs were drawn from Dannebrog and from the Loup River. Thus the barn was built with only the labor as expense, during the extra winter hours. After 25 years of service, the building was replaced with modern buildings, the home then becoming one of the first with modern conveniences.

In 1875, Paul married Catherine Paustian of Grand Island. She was born April 25, 1853. They had three sons — John, Otto and Henry — and two daughters, Anna (Mrs. Chris Sass) and Cecilia (Mrs. Marcus Cornelius), eighteen grandchildren, and forty great grandchildren.

In his early years in Merrick County, Paul built a simple two-story house. In the late 1890's, he built a beautiful large two and one-half story house with modern conveniences, which is still standing and is occupied to this day.

As the years passed on, Paul was a very successful cattle feeder, shipping them to Omaha and Chicago by rail and topping those markets. Several neighbors would drive cattle to Lockwook Loading Dock, and load cattle in rail cars to be shipped to Omaha to be sold. Each year he would buy cattle from farmers near Fullerton and set a date for a cattle drive. His son, John, was known as the cattle driver. The first night was spent on a Marsh farm; the second night the cattle would stay at his farm where son, Otto, lived (now occupied by grandson, Otto); and the third day they arrived at home.

During the spring blizzard of 1888, the log barn with slough grass roof saved his horses and cattle while neighbors lost theirs. Snowdrifts were so hard and deep, the manure from his barn was hauled out over the drifts.

Paul donated land on the corner of his farm for a school. This is School District #1 of Merrick County, now better known as Lockwood. He served as the first director of the schoolboard. He also served as director of First National Bank of Grand Island from 1909 through 1933, and as a Merrick County Supervisor.



Mr. and Mrs. Paul Frauen

Mrs. Paul Frauen passed away March 13, 1897, and Paul on August 30, 1923. Their son, John, passed away in July, 1923, Otto in April 28, 1939, Henry in 1963, Anna on January 1, 1966, and Cecelia in January, 1908. They are all buried in Grand Island City Cemetery. *Submitted by Gustav Frauen With Excerpts From Obituary.*

OTTO FRAUEN, SR.

Otto Frauen, Sr., was born near Lockwood in western Merrick County on April 1, 1878, to Paul and Catherine Paustian Frauen. He attended District #1 (Lockwood) School, and farmed and raised cattle with his father. Otto has two brothers and two sisters, and was recognized as the machinery mechanic of the family, while John was the cattle driver and Henry the hunter. His sisters were Anna (Mrs. Chris Sass) and Cecelia (Mrs. Marcus Cornelius).

He married Minnie Stolle of Grand Island on May 24, 1905, and they lived in Grand Island. Otto worked at Upperman & Leiser Windmill Company. In 1908 they moved to one of his father's farms two and one-half miles south and two miles east of Worms, where he spent the remainder of his life. His son, Otto, now resides on this farm. Otto and Minnie had four children and eleven grandchildren.

Max — March 30, 1906, married Elsie Ostermeier February 10, 1929, now residing in Worms.

Marie (Mrs. E. Vernon Nelson) — September 19, 1907 to September 3, 1967, married on October 16, 1935 and resided near Central City.



Mr. and Mrs. Otto Frauen, Sr.
1912

Herman — April 25, 1909 to March 6, 1978, married Esther Kurz August 10, 1941, and resided on Ft. 3, Grand Island, Merrick County. and an infant son who died at birth. Complications of this birth claimed the mother's life on February 20, 1911.

After Mrs. Frauen's death, Louisa "Lizzie" Oberschulte was hired as a housekeeper, and they were married July 31, 1912, at Zion Lutheran Church, Worms. It was noted in a newsclipping that they drove an auto to Grand Island for picture taking.

Louisa was born near Lockwood on August 2, 1889, to August and Elsie Oberschulte and attended District #1 (Lockwood) and Zion Lutheran School at Worms. She and Otto had five children and thirteen grandchildren.

Elsie (Mrs. Emil Schutt) — June 2, 1913 to December 29, 1978, married March 10, 1946 and resided five miles of Grand Island in Merrick County.

Cecelia (Mrs. Carl Warneke) — September 20, 1918, married March 1, 1942, now residing south of Grand Island.

Otto — December 17, 1920, married to Georgena Schmidt on April 17, 1955 and resides on home place.

Louise (Mrs. Clarence Benson) — May 23, 1923, married April 6, 1947 and resides one mile west of home farm.

Otto farmed with horses and later purchased a tractor. He worked 190 acres of hay meadows away from home. It has been told that at "haying time" a tent was pitched on a hayrack at the meadow for hired hands and they stayed there till all the hay was stacked. Otto would come home evenings for chores, and return the next morning. Mrs. Frauen would bring dinner to the meadow. A hole was dug in the ground to water the horses. This continued until part of the meadow was put into pasture.

In the summer of 1924, Otto and Lizzie and their family, and the Ernest Ostermeier's and five of their children (aunt of Lizzie) took off for Pocatello, Idaho, in Studebaker and Paige touring cars. They camped along the way and tubs and utensils, tents, etc. were hung on the outside of the cars. They had some very rough and dusty roads to travel. Only one night was spent in a barn, because of rain.

Otto had a congenial personality and was slow to anger. He loved gardening in his later years, and Lizzie enjoyed raising flowers. They did a lot of socializing with friends, neighbors, and relatives.

Otto passed away on April 28, 1939, because of illness. Louisa remained on the farm until April, 1955, and then retired in Grand Island. She passed away on July 26, 1966. They are buried in Grand Island City Cemtery. *Submitted Otto Frauen, Jr. and Louise Frauen Benson*

OTTO FRAUEN, JR. FAMILY

Otto Paul August Frauen entered this world December 17, 1920, son of Otto and Louisa Oberschulte Frauen, in western Merrick County. He was named after his father and both grandfathers. He is one of only a few to claim that he resides on the same farm that he was born and raised on. He attended school at District #42 South and Zion Lutheran School at Worms.

While Otto was a teenager his father passed away, so he took over the farming. His mother remained on the farm until April, 1955, and then moved to Grand Island to retire. Otto married Georgena Schmidt on April 17, 1955 at Zion Lutheran Church at Worms. They have three daughters — Lori, Linda and Lana.

Georgena was born and raised a few miles from the Frauen farm. She attended Zion Lutheran School, graduated from Central City High School in 1947, and then worked in Omaha nearly eight years as a secretary before returning homeward for marriage.

Otto raised corn, small grains, and alfalfa, and followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps, raising cattle and hogs. He believes in "minimum tillage" method of farming. A couple years ago, Otto decided to lessen the farm operation since there were no sons to take over, and now raises only corn on the home farm (which he purchased in 1966 as the "highest priced farm in Merrick County" at that



Otto Frauen, Jr., Family

time), and rents out other farm ground away from home. He dropped out of cattle-raising completely. He secured the 1937 John Deere G tractor his father once owned, overhauled and painted it like the original, and enters it in Steel-Wheels Antique Tractor pulls.

Otto and Georgena are life-long members of Zion Lutheran Church at Worms. She was Sunday School teacher and 4-H leader while raising a family, and is now active in choir and Dorcas Ladies Aid at Zion. Their three daughters also attended school at Zion and graduated from Central City High School. They were active in school activities and 4-H. Lori and Linda were Merrick County 4-H Queens in 1975 and 1977. Lana was more active in school sports.

Lori worked for Judge Gary Hatfield, Merrick County, for nearly four and one-half years and is now employed as Deputy Clerk for Hall County judges. Linda attended Grand Island School of Business and is now employed as Inventory Controller for Delicious Foods, and is active in Rural-Urban Youth. She and Lori reside in Grand Island. Lana is attending University of Nebraska, majoring in Arts and Science.

Otto and Georgena enjoy winter travelling and have taken some memorable tours, such as Hawaii, Spain and Africa, Carribean Cruise, etc., making friends with many fine folks. Life has a way of interrupting plans; we could not take a tour this last winter because of a bad house fire on August 23, 1980. We feel fortunate the house could be saved, but it will take at least a year to clean and refurnish it. Perhaps, in time, we can forget the sad memories of this tragedy. *Submitted by Georgena Frauen*

DORA MEYER FREY

Dora Maria Margematfa was born August 4, 1906 the daughter of Herman Frederick Meyer and Anna Marie Bormann in Hanover, Germany. She came to Worms, Nebraska, August 1913, at the age of seven. She attended Lutheran Parochial School in Palmer, Nebraska. In 1918 her parents moved to a ranch northwest of Burwell, Nebraska. She attended country school until seventh grade when she moved back to Worms to live with the Henry Peters family. She graduated from the eighth grade and received her Confirmation Vows. She then returned to Burwell to live with her parents.

On August 19, 1923 she married Herman Frey in the home of her parents. Herman was born near the Black Forest, Germany in 1896. When Herman was fifteen in 1911 he came to the United States.

After Herman and Dora were married they went to Reed Point, Montana and homesteaded. They built a two room log cabin where a daughter Frieda was born, September 7, 1924.

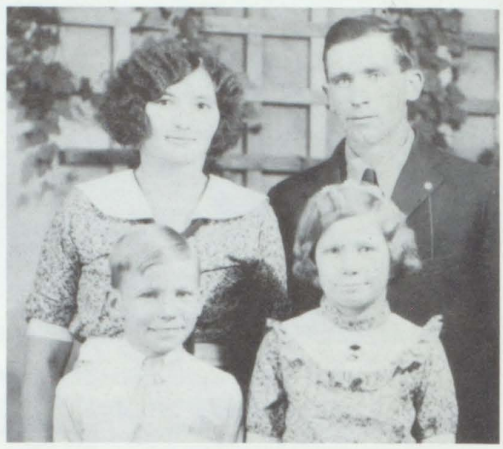
In 1925 they bought a ranch at the foot of Stockade Hill, Reed Point, Montana where Charles was born December 31, 1925, and Ann was born January 1, 1936.

November of 1942 Dora returned home to Burwell, Nebraska to visit her family. While here she contacted sinus and polio of the brain. She died in route to the Grand Island Hospital. Interment was in Montana. June 17, 1972 Herman died at Absarokee, Montana.

Frieda married Charles "Chuck" Robert Burrows, May 5, 1921, Billings, Montana. They had three children: Dora Edith, born April 7, 1947 who married Dale Allen Seng April 28, 1947. They have two children Stacey Lynn and Shelley Ann.

Alfred Herman born November 9, 1950 who married Marilyn Imes. They have four children: Shannon Scott, Shane Justin, Sondar Lea, and Shelly Boone.

Judy Marie born May 16, 1955 married Robert



Herman Frey Family

"Bob" Scott Faw. They have one son Gregory Scott born February 29, 1980, Leap Year.

Charles married Donna and had three children: Donald — July 1966, Charlene June 1968, and Julia Ann March 1973.

Ann married Stanley Stemberg, eight children: Terry, Lyle, Cheryl, Anna, Melanie, Steven — deceased eight years old, September 1971; Roy and Michael. *Submitted by Frieda Burrows*

FRIMANN FAMILY

Roots grow deep, and mine to the town of Chapman, Nebraska, are especially deep. Both sets of grandparents were early settlers there, and I was raised there. Grandpa Jesse Frimann was born in Stenderup, Denmark, and came to Nebraska in 1878. He was in Dannebrog for a very short time, and then to Grand Island where he worked for Mr. Glover, and also in the store of Mr. Kolback. In 1888, he came to Chapman to be cashier of the bank. Later, he went into the grain and implement business. Along with the grain business, he had a milling company where they produced rolled oats. The huge stones that were used in this process were later the steps to the implement company building. When the building was done away with a few years ago, I made a trip to Chapman and looked for the rocks, but they had vanished. Grandpa was a charter member, and the first Worshipful Master of Friendship Lodge #239, A.F. and A.M., and also served on the school board for several years.

Grandmother's maiden name was Meta Petrea Peterson, and she too came from Denmark, but they didn't meet until they were both in Grand Island. The Frimann children were Bessie, Alice, Rebecca, Meta, Mollie, Perry, A.J., and Claude. Perry taught in the Chapman high school in the early 1900's, and Claude served in the army for many years.

My father was A.J., and mother was Juanita Donovan. After grandpa Frimann moved to Omaha in 1918, my dad ran the implement business. Later he ran the implement business in both Chapman and Central City, but we remained living in Chapman. He, too, was active in the Masonic Lodge, serving as Worshipful Master several times. He was an avid football fan, and we never missed a University game in the days of Coach Dana X. Bible. He used to help set the dynamite in the Platte River each spring, so that the ice wouldn't take the bridge out. He was village clerk for 32 years, and also served on the telephone company board. It seems that the clerk's duties included digging graves, and when there



Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Frimann — June, 1932

wasn't anyone that could be hired, my dad would do it. I spent many hours at the Chapman cemetery with him as he dug a grave. Once, when he went to put the rough box in the ground, he found a dressed manikin in it. One of his friends had played a prank. Another vivid memory of my dad was at the baseball field west of town. He was umpire many Sunday afternoons, and I always went with him. Mother wouldn't go, as she was afraid he'd get into a fight over a decision.

My father passed away in 1941, and mother in 1953. My husband, a native of Grand Island, Ralph Geddes, is publisher of the newspaper in Rawlins, Wyoming. Our two daughters are Mrs. Dick Adams (Jane), of Evanston, Wyoming; and Dianne Geddes of Omaha. *Marian Frimann Geddes*

HUBERT FRITZ FAMILY

Hubert was born in York, Nebraska, the first of two children of Marie (Schlondorf) and Walter Fritz, on May 26, 1928. With his parents and sister Dolores (Mrs. Kenneth Dittmer), he first came to Merrick County in 1939. They farmed west of Clarks on what is now known as Harold Beck Place, for three years and then rented the Key farm down by the Platte River. His father farmed there until his sudden death on August 22, 1950 at forty-nine years of age. His mother, Mrs. Wilber Hernbloom, remarried several years later, and currently lives in Clarks.

I was born in the farm house four miles north of Central City the seventh of eight children born to Frankie (Good) and Walter B. Garrett. I grew up there, attended District #13 and graduated from Central City High School.

Hubert and I were married in July, 1949 and rented the Carl Peterson farm north of Clarks. Following the loss of our first child, a daughter, Nancy Kay, born July 13, 1950 and Hubert's father's death a few weeks later, we moved to the Key farm to care for the crops and livestock left by his father.

Two children were born while we lived there. Linda Lee May 19, 1952, and Thomas William December 3, 1953. We moved to Central City after Hubert started trucking and it was here that Barbara Ann was born on May 15, 1957.

We moved to York County in 1958 in several different locations and John Paul was born August 4, 1965 when we lived north of Bradshaw, in York County.

In the spring of 1966 we purchased the farm where we now live, from the Ferguson Estate and moved here, seven and one-half miles northwest of Clarks, in January of 1967. Anne Marie was born May 18, 1967, and Joseph Bradley was born April 3, 1972.

Linda was married to Bernard John Niemeyer June 14, 1974. They live near Kearney and have two daughters, Angela Marie, born April 29, 1977 and Sarah Ruth, March 7, 1980.

Tom was married to Peggy Sue Vincent of Clarks, January 14, 1977. They live west of Clarks, and have two children Jason Micheal, born November 14, 1977 and Jennifer Sue, March 13, 1980.

Barbara and Raymond Ray Nielsen were married September 10, 1977. They live in Kearney and have two children; Heather Rae, February 1, 1979 and Brandon Scott, March 30, 1981. *By Mrs. Hubert Fritz*

WALTER FRITZ FAMILY



Walter Fritz Family

Walter Henry Fritz was born September 30, 1900 in a sod house near Gresham, in York County Nebraska, the eldest of nine children born to Anna (Bolte) and William Carl Fritz. He was reared and schooled in this community and on February 10, 1927 he married Marie E. Schlondorf at the Lutheran Church in Gresham. They lived in Hamilton County and farmed there until 1939, when they moved to Merrick County. Settling on the farm owned by the late Meta Kay, it was while living here Walter suffered a fatal heart attack on August 22, 1950. Burial was at the Bureau (Pierce Chapel) Cemetery northwest of Clarks.

They were the parents of two children, a son Hubert, born May 26, 1928 at York, Nebraska. On July 21, 1949 he married Mary Garrett and they are the parents of six children.

A daughter Dolores was born August 22, 1932 at Stromsburg, Nebraska. She married Kenneth Dittmer on October 22, 1948 and they are the parents of four children.

After Walter's death, Marie moved to Central City where she bought the Norgard Apartment house which she ran for five years.

On November 26, 1955 she married Wilbur Hernbloom, a World War II veteran and resident of Polk County, at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Central City. Following their marriage they purchased a home in Stromsburg where Wilbur continued his employment with the Polk County Maintenance Dept. retiring in July 1977 after twenty-five years of service. He passed away from a heart attack on September 5, 1978 at Osceola, Nebraska. Burial was at the Bureau Cemetery.

Marie sold her home in Stromsburg and bought the late Ida Stern home in Clarks where she has lived since April, 1979.

At present she has ten grand-children and fourteen great-grand children. *Submitted by Marie E. Hernbloom*

DAVID & EMMA FULLERTON

In 1844, Daniel and Rose (Cooper) Fullerton and their nine children emigrated to America from northern Ireland. They landed at New Orleans, then traveled up the Mississippi River arriving at Chester, Randolph County, Illinois during the month of November. The family settled near the town of Swanwick, Illinois. The first child born in the United States was David Taggart on February 10th, 1849.

John A. Harmon, a cooper (barrel maker) by trade, was a veteran of the Texas War of Independence, including the battle of San Jacinto. He married Susan Swob in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the late 1830's or early 40's. Their sixth child, Emma, was born Christmas Day, 1858, at Georgetown (now Steelville), Illinois.

On November 22nd, 1876, David Fullerton and Emma Harmon were married in Sparta, Illinois. Three girls and a son, who died at an early age, were born while they were farming near Swanwick and Coulterville, Illinois. On August 21, 1884, the Fullertons and their three daughters left Illinois and arrived in Palmer, Nebraska, August 23rd. They purchased a farm one-half mile northeast of Palmer. The farm covered the E½ of the NW¼ of Section-33, T15N, R8W.

On January 12th, 1888, the two older girls were in school. Their father had a premonition that the weather was going to change, so he hitched the team to the wagon and picked up the girls at school. On the way home, the blizzard struck. It was impossible to see the way, so Mr. Fullerton gave the horses free rein and they proceeded back to the farm.

Three daughters and a son were born in Merrick County. The first, a girl, died in infancy. All of the surviving attended Merrick County schools. In 1886, Mrs. Fullerton's brother, Albert Harmon, purchased the farm. The family later moved to Central City.

Mrs. Fullerton became a member of the Palmer Christian Church on March 4th, 1890, and united with the Central City Christian Church as a charter member December 8th, 1907. While living in Central City, the Fullertons purchased land on both sides of 19th Avenue, south of 22nd Street. One is known as the Fullerton Addition and the other as the D.T. Fullerton Addition. The family home faced west on lot four of the Fullerton Addition. The home is still standing, but somewhat altered. Mr. Drake was living there in 1980. A barn south of the house was removed within the past few years.



David T. Fullerton Family — 1892

In 1919, the Fullertons moved to Olympia, Washington, where they resided until he passed away October 24th, 1930, age eighty-one. He is buried in the Olympia Cemetery near Tumwater, Washington. A few years later Mrs. Fullerton moved to Auburn, Nebraska, to reside with her daughter Jennie and husband, Dr. I.W. Irvin, until she passed away January 6, 1954, at the age of ninety-five. She is buried in the Auburn (Sheridan) Cemetery.

The oldest daughter, Anna May, married Elmer Gagle on January 4, 1899. Five children were born to this union. Jennie M. married Dr. I.W. Irvin November 20, 1907. Three boys were born to this union, and a foster son was raised to manhood. Maggie V. married Clide Vansickle on February 11, 1904, and they had eight children. Minnie A. married Francis Byrn, June 10, 1913, and they had two sons. Gertrude A. taught school in Merrick County. She married Just Jensen on June 13, 1931, and they had a son. The youngest member of the family, Arthur T., grew to manhood in Central City. He spent his working life on the west coast. Arthur and his wife had no children. *Submitted by Gerald W. Irvin*

GERTRUDE A. FULLERTON

Gertrude A. Fullerton Jensen the youngest daughter of David T. and Emma Harmon Fullerton was born on a farm near Palmer, Nebraska January

18, 1891. She graduated from Central City High School in the class of 1912. Gertrude attended Kearney State Teachers College and Peru State Teachers College. She taught school in Merrick County for about nine years before moving to Dalton, Nebraska in 1924 to teach school.

She married Just M. Jensen on June 13, 1931 at Grand Island, Nebraska. They lived on a farm eight miles west of Dalton till 1948 when they moved into Dalton. She was a member of the Central City Presbyterian Church until she transferred her membership to the Dalton Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Jensen died on January 18, 1953 at the age of sixty-two years. She and her husband who died March 29, 1956 are buried at the Dalton, Nebraska Cemetery. They had one son, James D. Jensen, who was born September 15, 1936 and now lives at Dalton, Nebraska. *Submitted by James D. Jensen*

JOSEPH FULLINGTON FAMILY

Our father, Joseph Fullington, was born September 5, 1882, in Webster County, Missouri, to William and Sarah Carey Fullington. At the age of nine years, he was left an orphan and had to make his home with relatives and friends. At the age of eighteen, Daddy and his two older brothers decided to come to Nebraska to find work. Since they did not have the money for transportation they walked the railroad tracks from Marshfield, Missouri, to Elkhorn, Nebraska, where they did commercial fishing and worked in a butcher shop. Later he came to Merrick County and homesteaded eighty acres south of what is now the Carl Brandes Place.

He met Hattie Jane Gagle at a program and box social. Thus, their courtship began.

Hattie was the daughter of John George and Martha Burke Gagle. She was born December 11, 1883, on the Gagle farmstead northwest of Central City. Her mother died when she was three years old. The father kept the family together with the help of the older children. He married Julia Wilson on October 3, 1887, and they remained on the farmstead for several years, later moving to the College Section.

Mother started to school at District #18 (the Burke School) which was a gift of her Grandfather Burke.

Mother and Daddy attended Sunday School and church and sang in the choir at the old Fairview Church. They were married July 10, 1908, at Central City. Then they went to Pierre, South Dakota, by covered wagon to work in the harvest and threshing season. They had quite an experience along their journey as there were no bridges and they had to ford the creeks and streams, and cross the river by ferry. Daddy said when they started to cross the water Mother would sit down in the wagon and cover her head with a blanket so she couldn't see the water. After the threshing was over, they returned to Merrick County in their covered wagon and started farming north of Central City on what is now the Charlie Matthes Place. They spent all of their married life farming and truck-gardening in Merrick County, and enjoyed tilling the soil. To this union was born six children — Edna (Belle), Earl, Cecil, Inez (Erickson), Sylvia (Bohl), and Delia (Rice). Earl died August 14, 1953. His death was a shock to all of us — we miss his visits and cheery smile so much. He left a wife and four children.

Our parents were always kind and loving, and always there to help anyone in need if they could. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary July 10, 1958, with open house to their relatives and friends. This was a very happy occasion for them. All of their children were present except Sylvia who lived in California. Three grandchildren were unable to attend. They had a long and happy married life and always enjoyed their children and grandchildren.

Daddy passed away February 25, 1967, after a lingering illness of four years and Mother left us July 3, 1971. They had made their home with their daughter, Inez, and her husband who kept them in the home and gave them loving care until the Lord called them away. *Submitted by Edna Belle and Inez Erickson*



Joseph Fullington Family

EARL & MARIAN FULLINGTON

Born near Chapman 11 August 1911, Earl Kenneth Fullington was a resident of Merrick County all of his life. He was a farmer. Earl was the son of Joseph and Hattie Gagle Fullington. He received his education in Merrick County rural schools.

On 19 August 1931, Earl married Marian Kathryn Belle at Aurora. She was the daughter of John and Lottie Burr Belle. Born in Nance County, 21 February 1910, she attended Timber Creek School in Nance County, and she finished the tenth grade then graduated from Fullerton High School in 1929. In July 1979, she attended the fifty year reunion of her class. After receiving "Normal Training" at Kearney State College, Marian taught in rural schools in Nance and Merrick Counties, including the Home Ranch School District #20.



Earl Fullington Family

Earl and Marian had four children:

Maynard Earl married Lois Nadine Vergo. They have a daughter Sherri Lynn. They live near Palmer.

Kathryn (Kay) Marie married John Donald O'Meara. They have eight children, Colleen, Kathleen, Maureen, John, Aileen, Brendan, Michael, and Shannon. They live in Seattle, Washington.

Nancy Belle married Carl Richard Johnson. They have four children, Richard, Marla, Scott, and Russell. They live in Central City.

Dorla (Dodie) Mae married A.W. Brooks. They have two children, Troy and Nancy Kathryn. They were divorced. Dorla married Kent Eugene Booth. They live in Diamond Bar, California.

The 1930's were not easy times for a newly married couple to begin farming. During these years Earl's uncle William M. Gagle's wife, Nan, died. Earl and Marian helped him care for his four young children Harold, George, Bonnie, and Etta. Marian told of a year that the grasshoppers were so thick they ate her entire garden, leaving only round holes in the ground where the onions had been. Then her precious chickens gorged themselves on the grasshoppers until they died!

The holidays were always memorable and were spent with many relatives. Some of the Christmas toys were old ones newly painted or new clothes and hair for an old doll. Marian's wedding dress became some of those new doll clothes. She was an expert at "recycling," out of necessity. On the Fourth of July, 1946, the family lived on the Everett Peters Place on Highway 92. The road was being newly paved and large mounds of sand made a perfect spot for lighting the annual fireworks.

In 1947 they bought and moved to a farm (N½ of SW¼ Section 13, Ts 14 NR 7W) in the Pierce Chapel Community. They were affiliated with Pierce Chapel Church and the children attended school at District #33.

The early 50's brought many changes to the family. During the polio outbreak of August 1951, Nancy was hospitalized. January of 1952 found the family moving to 1322 16th Avenue in Central City. This was the first home where they enjoyed the luxuries of a telephone, electricity, and dependable indoor plumbing. Earl, Marian, and Maynard were employed at the West Overland Produce Company. Earl's health had been declining and on 14 August 1953, at the age of forty-two, he died of lukemia at the St. Francis Hospital in Grand Island.

In the middle 1950's, Marian became a salesman for Stanley Home Products. This proved to be an important part of the rest of her life. She became a Unit Manager, won many awards, made a large number of friends, and did a great deal of traveling through her business.

In 1976, Marian sold her house and moved into the newly constructed Bader Westside Villa. She retired in 1978. Her last years were filled with traveling, her children and grandchildren, and a new found interest, genealogy.

Marian died 5 December 1979 at the Litzenburg Memorial Hospital in Central City. On 21 July 1979 she had suffered a massive heart attack, which was complicated by diabetes. Marian was a member of the Christian Church. She is buried beside Earl in the Pierce Chapel Cemetery.

Although Earl and Marian did not possess many things by today's standard they took pride in the things they did have, such as: fine horses, a love of hunting, a good milk cow, a good stand of milo or corn, a good supply of vegetables "put away" in the cellar, new dresses made with colorful feed sacks and the latest Capper's Weekly patterns, and most of all, their family. *Submitted by Maynard Fullington and Nancy B. Johnson*

MAYNARD & LOIS FULLINGTON

Maynard, eldest and only son of Earl and Marian Fullington's four children, was born on March 13, 1934, in Central City in a house behind the Baptist Church. It was depression and drought years. Times were hard for a young couple starting farming. As a result, Maynard's family moved every year or two to "greener pastures." He attended Merrick County School District #27, #47, #18, #14, and #33. The family bought a farm near Pierce Chapel, where they lived until 1952, the year Maynard graduated from Central City High. They moved to Central City. His father died then. Maynard worked at West Overland Produce and helped his mother provide for the family.

Lois was born in Chapman on August 15, 1935, to John and Nell Vergo, their eldest and only daughter. They lived near Chapman, Little Sioux, Iowa, and Clarks. When Lois was a sixth grader, her family moved to a farm near Pierce Chapel. She finished grade school in Pleasant Hill School. She graduated from Clarks High in 1953. She received a teaching certificate from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1954. She taught District #50.

On January 22, 1956, Maynard and Lois were married at Pierce Chapel and lived in Central City. Sherri Lynn was born December 22, 1956. Maynard was drafted in 1956. He went to Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where he was in the Army Engineers. Lois and Sherri joined him there.

The family moved back to Central City. Maynard found employment as parts manager for Palmer Oil of Palmer, the International Harvester dealership, later known as Palmer Implement and Service. Lois



Scott and Sherri Moore, Maynard and Lois Fullington

started teaching in 1960, in first grade at North Ward in Central City. They purchased the former Jens Jensen home. In 1965, Maynard was put in charge of implement sales. Lois continued teaching and going to school herself at Kearney. In 1966, she received her B.S. in elementary education. In 1968, the family sold their home and moved to a farm they had purchased two and three-fourths miles east of Palmer. Lois accepted the second-grade position in Palmer, which she continues to enjoy. In 1970, they purchased another farm. They installed one of the first successful center pivot irrigation systems in this area and acquired the dealership for the same. On this dealership, they built the basis for their business, after having acquired Palmer Implement and Serivce from Maynard's former boss, William Lautenschlager. The business was changed to Palmer Implement and Irrigation, Incorporated. In 1974, Maynard and Lois built a new building in Palmer which at this time still houses the business.

Sherri graduated valedictorian at Palmer in 1975, University of Nebraska Lincoln in 1978, and lives in Oklahoma. February 7, 1981, she was married to Scott Moore.

In 1976, they sold the business to Bill and Donna Kucera. Maynard manages the farms and business interests. In 1977, they built a new home on their farm where they still live and enjoy the good life of Nebraska. *Submitted by Lois Fullington*

CHARLES & WINIFRED FUNK

We moved to Central City twice — twenty five years apart. The first time we were sent; the second time we chose to come.

In the summer of 1954, following five years in Fullerton, Nebraska, Charles was appointed to serve the Methodist churches in Central City and the Fairview community. Our daughters, Winifred, ready for her senior year in high school, and Barbara, going into eighth grade, thought this a catastrophe.

They were wrong. Not only did their Central City "rivals" receive them warmly, but accorded them places in school activities. Barbara was elected Queen for the Junior High Valentine party and did the piccolo solos when the band played Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever." "Freddy" had a lead in her class play, accompanied choral groups, was named valedictorian, and received a regent's scholarship. She went on to become a graduate registered nurse, and now she works and lives in Philadelphia with her husband and three children.



Winifred and Charles Funk

When a car-train accident in 1955 took the lives of Ann Demel, Vicki Peterson, Barbara, and Ann's mother as she took them to their first high school party, the entire community responded with such loving empathy that we felt we would want to live here again upon our retirement.

In 1959, we went to the Texas Medical Center in Houston so Charles could train for the hospital chaplaincy. He opened the chaplaincy department at Nebraska Methodist Hospital in Omaha in 1960. After twelve years there, he served the United Methodist Church in several other capacities before retirement. Then we designed and built a home in Central City, moving back again in 1979.

During our earlier years here, plans were made to build a new Methodist Church in a new location. These were exciting days for Charles. Winifred smiles as she recalls tape recording the piano accompaniment for singing in the youth department because in no way could a piano be moved up the narrow stairway to the second floor where they met. Both of us especially enjoyed camp activities with youth of the area.

We feel most at home in Nebraska, even though we grew up in Kansas and our early years of marriage were spent in Oregon. Charles' mother was a school teacher, and his father, Charles M. Funk, was in real estate and insurance in Ioal, Kansas. Winifred's father, Dr. O.O. Wolf, was a veterinarian and farmer in Ottawa, Kansas. He served two terms as state senator, and many years as president of the Kansas Farm Bureau. Charles E. and Winifred W. met at Kansas State University in Manhattan, where Charles was graduated in electrical engineering, and Winifred in industrial journalism. Charles took seminary training at the Boston University School of Theology and Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California.

We were fond of Central City when we lived here the first time. Now we have fallen in love with it all over again. We maintain there are more wonderful people per square mile in Merrick county than any place in the world. *Winifred W. Funk*

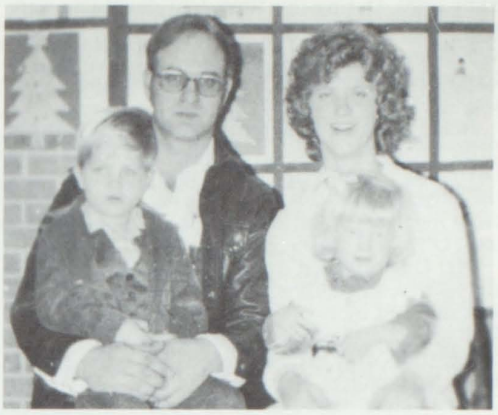
RODNEY GAEDEKE FAMILY

Rodney (who goes by name of Rod) and I live two and one-half miles south and west of Silver Creek in Polk County, but we claim Merrick County, also, as Silver Creek is Rod's place of employment, our school, church, and nearest town. Rod is the shop foreman for Grosch Irrigation Company. He has been with them four years, and was formerly employed by Co-op Oil.

Rod is the son of William Gaedeke of Silver Creek and Mrs. Bernice Johnson of Lincoln. He has one brother and five sisters, none of whom live in Merrick County. Rather unusual is the fact that included among his brother and sisters are two sets of twins, and that I am a twin. Rod was born June 13, 1953, at Stromsburg, Nebraska, and raised on the same farm as we now live on. He entered the Silver Creek school as a kindergarten pupil and received his high school diploma from there in 1971. He was a member of the football, basketball, and track teams. After graduation, he attended Grand Island Business College.

I am the former Joan Beck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Beck (part of my childhood is included in the Dale Beck history). I am the middle child in my family, having been born a few minutes before my brother. He (Joe) and I were very congenial as well as competitive in scholastic ability. My younger sister and I were very close and are still best friends as well as sisters. Besides the academic subjects in school, I participated in chorus, girls glee, sextet, band, volleyball, track, pep club, and cheerleading. Church activities included M Y F, Teen Church, Sunday School, and singing in the choir. Some of my hobbies were horseback riding, music, and sewing.

After high school graduation from Silver Creek in 1973, I received my LPN training at Platte College in Columbus. I then worked at the Hoffmeister Nursing Home in Genoa. At the present time, I work on a part-time basis at the Good Samaritan



Rodney Gaedeke Family

Center in Osceola. I also babysit with two of my nieces (Jan and Jolene Cuba) three days a week.

Rod and I were married on October 19, 1974, at the Silver Creek United Methodist Church where we are both active members. After our marriage, we lived in a trailer home in Silver Creek. We sold this and, in 1976, moved into the new home we built here.

Our son, Chad Patrick, was born July 11, 1976, and this year attends Sunny Corner (a preschool in Silver Creek) two mornings a week.

Our daughter, Kari Kay, arrived July 18, 1978. We are especially thankful for answered prayers for Kari's health now, as she was seriously ill during most of her first year of life.

We enjoy our family and our home. I like to bake and sew, and make quite a few of the clothes for our family. Rod takes pride in and works hard to have a nice yard and good garden. *By Joan Gaedeke*

HENRY ELMER GAGLE

Henry Elmer Gagle was born in Central City, Nebraska, in 1877. It is my understanding that his family lived in Merrick County for many years, coming in the early 1870's.

Anna May Fullerton, the first child of David Taggart and Emma (Harmon) Fullerton, was born near Swanwick, Perry County, Illinois, September 10, 1877.

On August 21, 1884, the Fullertons and their three daughters left Illinois and arrived in Central City on August 23rd. They purchased a farm northeast of Palmer where they lived a few years. The two oldest daughters attended high school in Palmer.

On January 4, 1899, Elmer and May were married in Central City. They lived in Merrick County



H. Elmer and Anna May Gagle 1899

until 1909. During this time, four daughters were born. During that year they moved to Seattle, Washington, the site of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, where Mr. Gagle worked and a son, David Glenn, was born.

In 1919, they moved from Seattle to a farm in the Brighton Park District of Thurston County near Olympia, Washington. Elmer and May lived out their lives in this area. They are buried along with other members of the family in the Masonic Cemetery, Olympia, Washington.

Mr. Gagle passed away in 1944 at the age of sixty-seven. In addition to his immediate family, he was survived by two brothers, Dave of California, Will of Nebraska; three sisters, Mrs. Viola Pursell of Seattle, Mrs. Effie Spencer, and Mrs. Hattie Fullington, both of Nebraska.

Mrs. Gagle passed away in 1954 at the age of seventy-seven. In addition to three daughters and their families, she was survived by one sister, Jennie Irvin of Auburn, Nebraska, and a brother Arthur of Wilmington, California.

Five children were born to this union.

Sadie B. born April 25, 1900. Married C.A. Neat December 22, 1923. Two children, Lois Y., born April 23, 1925 and Eldon E., born July 27, 1926. Mrs. Neat passed away in 1948.

Chrissa born October 1, 1901. Married C.F. Crandall. Now a widow, she resides in Olympia, Washington.

Mildred born March 7, 1905. Married Thomas H. Todd in November, 1928. Two children were born to this union: Glenda L. October 17, 1934 and Gary Lee born July 18, 1937. Mr. and Mrs. Todd live in Seattle, Washington.

Enid R. born March 21, 1908. Married M.M. Wells August 16, 1927. Two children were born to this union: Naomi Jean October 8, 1928, and Deloris L. born Novem6er 23, 1932.

David Glenn born June 26, 1911, died September 30, 1934. *Submitted by G.W. Irvin*

JOHN GEORGE GAGLE

John George Gagle was born in Celina, Ohio 9 October 1841. When he was nine years old his parents died leaving him homeless. He became a member of the German Lutheran Church early in life.

John George married Martha G. Burke, daughter of Henry and Lucinda Burke, 22 January 1867 in Mercer County, Ohio. Martha was born 25 December 1845 in Carrol County, Ohio.

Two children were born to the Gagles in Ohio, Mary and Delmer. Sometime after June of 1870 the family left Ohio and after a short time in Kansas, where Viola was born, they came to Merrick County, Nebraska. They settled in N½ SE¼ and S½ NE¼ S6 T14 R6 in Mead Township. This came to be known as the Gagle Homestead. At this home five more children were born; Minnie Jeanette, Henry Elmer, Effie Arene, Hattie Jane, and lastly an unnamed baby daughter. Martha or Mattie, as she was known, died 23 September 1886, the baby died the next day.

In 1887, John George Gagle married Julia Russell Wilson, the widow of a former Fairview Methodist Church pastor. At this time Julia had two living sons, Walter and Charles.

To this union were born three boys and three girls; Bertha, David, William, Nellie and two that died as infants.

John George Gagle worked as a blacksmith in Ohio. He did this type of work for area farmers and also for people passing through the area. It seemed that there were always several people coming and going at the farm.

In 1878, during a Custer County cattle range feud, Ami Ketchum and Luther Mitchell, friends and perhaps former neighbors of the Gagles, became entangled with the Olive gang. During these troubled days the wife and family of Mitchell stayed with the Gagle family. It was there that the sad news was delivered to Mrs. Mitchell that Mitchell and Ketchum had been murdered by members of the Olive gang.

The Loup River was visited frequently by the Gagles. They went to its banks to cut wood and gather wild plums. They also ice skated there. They were always cautious of the Indians in that area and on at least one occasion one of the men was chased by them.

John George Gagle told of coming home with a wagon load of meat and coal. As he passed by some overhanging brush some type of large wild cat jumped onto the wagon. He threw coal at the cat until it jumped off. Obviously he could return to pick up the thrown coal pieces later; not so the meat!

The Gagles moved to the College Section and it was there that he died 18 August 1907. At the time of his death he had lived in Merrick County for thirty-five years. He was one of so many Merrick County pioneer settlers that shared in the hardships of its early days. *Compiled by Nancy B. Johnson*



John George and Julia Wilson Gagle Families

JULIA WILSON GAGLE

Julia Ann Russell, daughter of Eugene and Annie Russell was born in Clay County, Illinois 3 October 1857. When she was four weeks old her mother died. Her father entrusted her to her aunt Julia A. Dykes. About the age of ten, she was placed in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. Morton near Jacksonville, Illinois.

On 3 October 1880 she married Rev. Wesley Wilson. The following April they came to Ord, Nebraska where her husband became the first resident pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Later he served as pastor of the Fairview Church north of Central City in Merrick County. Although the wife of a devoted minister these times were not without the testings so characteristic of young pioneer gospel trailblazers.

Four sons were born to this marriage: Walter H., Charles and twins. Mr. Wilson had injured his spine as a child and was a life long cripple, as a result his life and work in the gospel ministry was cut short by his death, 2 April 1886. One of the twins died two months earlier and the other a month after the father's death.

Mrs. Wilson married John George Gagle of Central City on 3 October 1887. This also being his second marriage there were two sets of children in the new home. Six children were born to this union: the oldest, Bertha Annie, died when one year old, Nellie E. (Davis), David E., William M. and two that died in infancy. With a large family of children she knew long hours of toil and care, often burning the midnight oil to sew or mend. She often watched by the bedside of loved ones fallen ill and so many times she saw the eyelids closed and the heartbeat stilled.

Blessed with a strong constitution and robust health Julia was spurred on and ever onward by a devotion to her own loved ones or with the thought of caring for the needs or comforts of neighbors and friends. She cherished a simple faith and nourished a blameless character.

Mr. Gagle died at their home in the College Section on 18 August 1907. Julia continued to live there for a number of years.

For the last thirty years of her life Julia was a member of the Friends Church in Central City, following her son, Walter, who had made the transfer a few years earlier.

Julia's vision failed her some years before her death but it seemed perhaps she had learned to see more clearly with the eye of faith. She died 20 November 1940 in Grand Island. Julia, her first husband, Wesley Wilson and five of her sons, are buried in the Central City Cemetery.

This story was based on a tribute to Julia Wilson Gagle written at the time of her death by her oldest son, Walter Wilson. *Submitted by Nancy Johnson*

J.G. GAGLE CHILDREN

Following are brief sketches of the children of John George Gagle. This information has been gathered from descendants living in the Merrick County area, cemeteries, and county courthouse records. Some of the children are featured in other family stories in this book.

These are the eight children of John George and Martha Burke Gagle.

Mary E. — born 20 November 1867, in Mercer County, Ohio, married George Chase 24 November 1886, died 6 January 1893 in childbirth, buried Burke Cemetery.

Delmer E. — (also found Dehner) born 11 February 1870 in Mercer County, Ohio, died 22 May 1873.

Viola R. — born 6 May 1872 in Kansas, married John Pursell 21 December 1892, died Seattle, Washington.

Minnie Jeanette (Nettie) — born 6 July 1874 in Merrick County, married William Harvey Kuhn 13 December 1891, died 1 May 1942, buried Burke Cemetery.

Henry Elmer — born 27 February 1877 in

Merrick County, married Anna May Fullerton 4 January 1899, died 1944, buried Masonic Cemetery, Olympia, Washington.

Effie Arene — born 14 February 1880 in Merrick County, married Roy Spencer 25 January 1905, died 24 December 1961 in California, buried Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Hitchcock County, Nebraska.

Hattie Jane — born 11 December 1883 in Merrick County, married Joseph Columbus Fullington 10 July 1908, died 3 July 1971, buried Burke Cemetery.

Infant daughter — died 24 September 1886, buried Burke Cemetery.

These are the children of John George and Julia Russell Wilson Gagle.

Bertha Ann — born 13 August 1888 in Merrick County, died 13 August 1889, buried Burke Cemetery.

David Edgar — born 5 June 1890 Merrick County, married Laura Bauer, died 11 March 1965, buried Central City Cemetery. Dave and Laura ran Gagle's Station five miles north of Central City for many years.

William Matthias — born 16 September 1895 Merrick County, married Nan Davis 25 August 1920, died 19 April 1955, buried Central City Cemetery.

Nellie Etta — born 5 April 1898 Merrick County, married Ray Davis 25 August 1920, died 21 January 1922 in childbirth, buried Burke Cemetery.

Infants — one male, one female — no names or birth dates, buried Burke Cemetery. *Compiled by Nancy B. Johnson*

ELMER & VIOLET GALUSHA

On August 4, 1911 Elmer E. Galusha was born in Central City, Nebraska to David Earl and Grace Galusha, who moved to Central City from York County in 1905. On September 4, 1913 Milton Galusha was born to the family. Elmer and Milton attended Districts #27 and #13 schools in Merrick County.

David Galusha worked for Heber Hord on the Fouts Ranch for eighteen years, most of which he served as foreman. Elmer and Milton were both raised on the Fouts Ranch. Both Elmer and Milton attended the Central City High School where Elmer graduated in 1931. While attending high school Elmer worked for Tom Balaska in Centra City.

In 1931 Elmer started the Community Sale at the Fouts Ranch on the Hord Farm.

In 1932 Elmer married Violet C. Sawyers. Three children were born to Elmer and Violet. They are Betty Jean Nelson, Richard Lee, and Harry Stull. They all reside in Central City.

In 1935 Elmer bought the Charles Willoughby home place in Central City, where the sale barn was moved and is presently located. The sale barn is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in 1981. Elmer's children took over management in 1979.

Elmer has been in the auction business and farming since 1928.

Elmer's first farm sale was for Valentine Grubber located five miles north and one east of Central City. Elmer was also the foreman for the U.S. Forestry Dept. for over five years. The department was responsible for putting many of the shelter belts in Merrick, Nance and Hamilton Counties. Elmer also shipped horses to California for the Swift Packing Company for thirty years.

In June 1961, we bought the late Mrs. Ruth Hesselgesser Filling Station, called the Community Service Station, to go along with our Sale Barn Business.

January 1977 we put a new auction house up, 50 feet by 140 feet and we had our first sale in it March 1977. We had a free pancake feed, and we served over 1,000.

We have sold real estate since 1938, private and at auction. We also buy and sell trailer houses of all kinds.

I have enjoyed every minute of my work and a different thing happens every day. I have always lived to work with the public. *Submitted by Violet Galusha*



Elmer Galusha Family

F.H. GARBERS FAMILY



Frederick H. and Hazel Garbers 1910

Frederick Herman Garbers was born in Zeiden, Germany, March 26, 1886, coming to Chapman with his parents in 1888. He was married to Hazel Kuhlman in the Kuhlman home on December 8, 1910 (her birthday). They honeymooned in Denver and Colorado Springs and returned to the family farm. There, three daughters were born — Caroline (October 19, 1912), Marie Velma (August 8, 1914) and Hazel Fredeline Alma (May 8, 1916). Mother Hazel passed away on May 15, 1916. Caroline (four) and Marie (two) were cared for by their Grandmother Garbers and Hazel was taken and raised by John and Alma Garbers until their deaths in 1929 and 1930. Grandmother Garbers died of pneumonia March 1, 1917 and a second cousin of Fred's, Katherine Schroeder of Smithfield, Nebraska, came to care for the girls. Fred and Katherine were married October 23, 1918. The day after the wedding Fred was ordered to report to Central City for deportation as an enemy alien. However, the court proved that since his parents became citizens of the United States before he was born in Germany, he was an American citizen. The Armistice was signed November 11, 1918, and the anxious days were over. During World War I, feeling against Germans ran high and since Caroline and Marie spoke little English they were seldom taken to Grand Island. The family moved to Chapman in 1924 where Frederick H. did plumbing and carpentry. The daughters graduated from Chapman High School and Midland College at Fremont, Nebraska. Katherine passed away February 16, 1945 and Fred H. on August 28, 1968. Frederick W. and Sophia, Frederick H. and Hazel and Katherine Schroeder are all buried in the Garbers family plot in Chapman, Nebraska.

Caroline Garbers was married to George N. Green of Fremont, Nebraska, May 16, 1937, and have lived in Inland, Nebraska, since 1942. They have two daughters, Sheila Brotherton (b. April 20, 1938) and Laurie Newman (b. July 23, 1940), and two grandchildren, Sandy Newman. November 4, 1964) and James Brotherton (b. October 1, 1966). Sheila teaches higher mathematics at Heritage High in Littleton, Colorado, and Laurie owns and operates a dress shop in Platte Canyon Square, Littleton. George was the Property and Disposal Officer in the Supply Department at the Naval Ammunition Depot from May, 1943, until it closed on June 30, 1966. He then set up the Plant Systems for the Central Nebraska Community College, working there for three years. Presently he owns and operates a leather shop which he began in 1953 as a hobby. Caroline taught thirty-three years — twenty-five as teacher, librarian and speech director in the Doniphan Public Schools.

After graduation from college, Marie earned a Master's Degree in Laboratory and X-Ray techniques from Fairview Hospital and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and worked at clinics in Crookston and Red Wing, Minnesota, and Seattle, Washington. She was married to William Molleran of Covington, Kentucky, on February 25, 1946, and lived in Cincinnati, Ohio, until her death on December 12, 1961. They had no children.

Hazel also was a teacher, teaching in Cowles, Lisco, and St. Paul Nebraska. She was married to Donald Cahill of Valentine, Nebraska, on June 3, 1942. They both taught in Platte Center, Nebraska, until 1955, when they moved to Lindsay, California, where Don was school superintendent until 1973. They had two sons, James Stephen (b. October 22, 1951) and Richard Frederick (b. June 18, 1953), both born at Platte Center. Both boys graduated from Lindsay High School. James graduated from the University at Santa Barbara, California, and the Jesuit Law School in Los Angeles. Richard graduated from U.C.L.A. and the Notre Dame Law School in Indiana. They also each spent a year studying in Cambridge and Oxford, England. James is now with the law offices of Fred J. Martino in Los Angeles and Richard is the Assistant District Attorney of Tulare County in Visalia, California. Hazel passed away on September 16, 1976. *Submitted by Caroline Green*

F.W. GARBERS FAMILY

Frederick William Garbers was born June 28, 1845, in Hanover Province. In 1866 he fought in the war between Hanover, an independent province at that time, and Prussia. Hanover lost and disliking to serve in the Prussian military service, he went to England and worked in a sugar beet factory near London to earn passage to America. When he had sufficient funds he returned to Germany to marry Sophia Altman of Nienburg. They came to America settling near Collinsville, Illinois on the Mississippi. A son John (b. June 22, 1876) and a daughter Marie were born here. While living here they became naturalized citizens (March 25, 1882, in Edwardsville, county seat of Madison County, Illinois) and also purchased the farm one-half mile east and



Frederick W. and Sophia Garbers

one-half mile north of District #2 school near Chapman. Sophia suffered from malaria living near the Mississippi. In 1882 they returned to Hanover, Germany, to settle the Garbers family estate — a brother and sister had died, leaving F.W. the only heir. While they were there, their son, Frederick Herman, was born (March 26, 1886). They returned to America in 1888, settling on the farm they had previously purchased near Chapman. In 1900 when son John was married to Alma Stratman (February 1, 1900) they moved to a second farm, one mile west, leaving John and Alma on the original farm. John later moved into Chapman where he owned and operated a hardware store until 1926, when they moved to Grand Island. Daughter Marie returned to Germany in 1896 to marry a childhood sweetheart, Henry Siemers. They had two daughters, Alma and Velma. In 1905 Frederick W. and Sophia were on their way to Germany to see their daughter Marie, but she passed away before they arrived. After their return from Germany, Frederick W. became ill and died July 5, 1911. Frederick W. was active in the community, being secretary of District # 2 schools, north and south, for a number of years. The north school served as a community church for a time until the Trinity Lutheran Church was built on West Second near the viaduct in Grand Island. Frederick W. helped organize this church and son Frederick Herman was confirmed here. *Submitted Caroline Green*

DEACON GARDNER FAMILY

Deacon L. Gardner was born February 16, 1880 to Mr. and Mrs. George G. Gardner on the Gardner homestead, NE¼ and W½ SE¼, S10 T14 R7, northeast of Archer, Nebraska. Deacon had three brothers, George, Benjamin and Richard. Deacon died in the Omaha Methodist Hospital of meningitis, on January 5, 1928 and is buried in the Central City Cemetery.

On April 10, 1901, he married Nellie C. Baker. Nellie was born in 1881 and spent her early years in Lincoln, Nebraska. When her mother died she came to live with her maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Webster Farnham, in Archer.

Nellie died in 1960 in Grand Island and is buried in the Central City Cemetery.

Mr. Gardner took the Civil Service exam for rural mail carriers and was apppointed to the Archer route on October 16, 1905. For twenty-two years he carried the mail and estimated he drove 200,000 miles. His mode of transportation was a horse drawn mail cart. It was enclosed and had a stove for heat in the winter. When the weather was nice he rode a motorcycle on his route. His mail wagon was also used as a shoe repair shop. (Something the government would frown upon now).

Dek, as he was known, was also the correspondent for the Central City Republican. He had a ready wit and never in all of his writings was there found a trace of sarcasm or any bitter biting.

Old timers remember that he was very musical and played three instruments. He would sit on his porch and play on summer evenings. He was a member of the Archer Band.

Their children were: George, Luther, Grace Gould, Mary Bartels, Ben, Richard, Dorothy Johnston, Ramona Lambe, Gilson and Vincent.



Deacon Gardner Family

Deacon wrote a description of Archer in 1925. These few lines will give you an insight to the very colorful character of Deacon Gardner.

"The quiet hamlet is dotted with radios and but little transpires in the world that the people know not of. The farmers adjacent to town have formed a union. The Archer Shipping Association has been in existence several years. The Modern Woodmen have a lodge here, also their auxiliary, the Royal Neighbors. The C.O.A. club and L.A.L. clubs still exist. The Ladies Aid Society, Parent-Teachers Association, Homemakers Club and the Almalgamated Society of Ancient and Modern Section Bosses keep the social calendar filled. Chicken stealing is unknown. We have no earthquakes. None of our people care to go to Florida. We have varieties of climate to suit the most fastidious. No native of Archer ever felt a wood tick. The dogs all bark in unison and it gets quiet sooner. We have no professional reformers to reform. The hoot owl lulls us to sleep at night and the pheasants awaken us in the morning. Amen!" *Submitted by Virginia Marsh*

PERCY GARDNER FAMILY

Papa and Mama, George and Mary Ferris, came from Galesburg, Illinois to Archer, Nebraska in 1879. They built a little sod house before the prairie was divided into section lines. Mama lined the walls with muslin and covered the floor with woven-cloth carpeting. A 16′ x 20′ frame house was built at the same time, but moved up later a few feet to the new section line and close to an 1888-built barn, standing there now where my brother lives today. Papa was a serious farmer and very careful with his tools. Mama was a good homemaker and seamstress. I was born in 1885, the third of five children.

Our social life centered around the Fairview Methodist country church where I had many good



Mamie B. (Ferris) Gardner
1909

times; played the church organ and taught Sunday School. This is where, in 1893, I met a new neighbor boy just my age. He had moved here with his father and mother, William and Mary Gardner, and his two brothers, from Iowa. No one ever looked quite so good to me! Percy Gardner and I were married on June 15, 1909.

The country school house one-fourth mile from home holds more memories. I attended there as a child, taught there later, and still later sent our first two little girls.

My husband and I called our farm the "Rendrag Place" and had good times, holding "butterfly socials" and little theatre plays in the hayloft of our barn. It was while living on our farm that our first four children were born: Bernice, Beth, Jean and Dick.

In 1922, new opportunities beckoned us. It was an adventuresome two weeks as the six of us drove west in the old touring car (isinglass windows). We camped out, learning new sights all the way to California. Here we settled in Oakland and had two more children, Bud and Phil.

However, we never forgot Nebraska, and often took our children back again (on the train) to visit and *know* their cousins and uncles and aunts.

Today our family is pretty well rooted in California: a daughter once again in the country, living in Calistoga to the North, another daughter and family living in Southern California near the ocean, another daughter has retired from teaching school and lives in Albany, nearby. A son has retired from working as an engineer for the State and lives here in Oakland, very nearby. Another son lives in San Jose with his family and still works for I.B.M.

We have seven fine grandchildren and one great grandson.

Before my husband passed away in 1964, we enjoyed our Golden Wedding Day on June 15, 1959, here in our Oakland home with our children all present.

Today I am ninety-five years old, living in my own home, and remembering my happy lifetime that started in Archer, Nebraska . . . and would you believe . . . had the good fortune to attend a great Ferris family reunion there just this Summer of July, 1980! *Submitted by Mamie B. Gardner (as told to Jean)*

MARVIN GARRETT FAMILY

My mother, Mary Elizabeth Abel, came to Clarks, Nebraska, at age twelve when her parents and seven children came in a covered wagon from Oskaloosa, Iowa. My father, Joseph M. Garrett, came from Ohio where his family raised tobacco. He wasn't interested in raising tobacco, so he came to Clarks to raise corn. He hired out when he first came to Nebraska. Eventually he met my mother, whom he married December 22, 1885. The first year, they lived on the Hartwell farm east of Clarks. They then homesteaded on a farm twelve miles northwest of Central City and raised a family of eight children. I was second from the youngest.

For our education, we had to walk two and a half miles to District #55 in Nance County. Often on our trek, we would stop at Sunrise General Store and Post Office, operated by the Frank Kenoyer family. My folks would journey to Central City to obtain supplies.

In my youth, I remember on one occasion falling in the water tank and my brother, Joe, pulled me out. Needless to say, it called for a change of clothes. My mother spied us as we were approaching home. Joe supplied Mother with an explanation.

As I recall, we first attended Sunday School at the Adams schoolhouse. Transportation was a team and wagon. Later, we started attending Mason schoolhouse for afternoon services. We then built the South Side Evangelical Church, across the road from the Elmer Patton farm, but in Merrick County. My courtship of Florence Galley soon ripened. We were married on February 15, 1924, at Fullerton Evangelical Parsonage. She enriched my life until her death in June, 1962.

The first two years my brother, Walter, and I farmed near Central City. The following two years I farmed near Chapman, then on the A.M. Smith farm for sixteen years. Later we bought the Emil Stone farm, where I still live.

In 1930 came the depression with corn good, but selling for only ten cents a bushel. People burned it for fuel in homes and schools. In 1934, we didn't have any corn because of drought. I sold forty head of pigs weighing about one hundred pounds for only one dollar apiece.

We had four children: Onilee, Marlene, Orville,



Marvin K. and Bessie Garrett

and Melvin. They attended Mead School, District #19. I served on the schoolboard for six years.

In 1939, we started attending Fariview Methodist Church. I was elected, in 1943, Sunday School Superintendent and served for three years. In 1951, I helped in the construction of the new Fairview Church, which we still attend.

In September, 1964, I went on a United Nations bus tour where I met Bessie Isom of Randolph. We were married November 28, 1965, at the Methodist Church in Randolph. She had five daughters and one son.

Other than the church, our families and the Museum are our major interests. We belong to the Merrick County Historical Society and Nebraska State Historical Society. *Submitted by Marvin Garrett*

MEL & SHIRLEY GARRETT

Melvin Garrett was born August 8, 1939 in Central City, Nebraska, to Marvin K. and Florence Galley Garrett. They lived on a farm twelve miles northwest of Central City. He attended Rural District #19 school and graduated from Central City High School in 1957. He served in the Navy for two years, with active duty on the Air Craft Carrier Bon Homme Richard, fueling planes. He toured Hawaii, Guam, Japan, China, Philippines, and Okinawa.

Shirley Hilmer was born June 26, 1940 in Columbus, Nebraska, to Edward and Pearl Adams Hilmer. In November 1946, Ed died of burns suffered when their home was destroyed by fire. In March of 1947, Pearl married Armin Luschei and in 1949 she moved to Central City where she completed her High School education.

Mel and Shirley were married June 28, 1959 at Fairview United Methodist Church. Their home was in Oakland, California until March 1960 when Mel was discharged. They returned to his Dad's farm to form a partnership with him. They lived in a small trailer house on the home place until March 1961 when they rented the Mildred Knight farm and moved there.

They have four children: Bradley (February 10, 1961), Tracey (December 25, 1962), Russell (June 10, 1965), and Myron (August 10, 1968). All were born in Central City.

Mel bought out the M.K. Garrett and Son partnership in 1972 after his Dad's retirement in 1970.

They bought the Knight farm (SE¼ 19-15-6), December 12, 1974 from Fred and June Vipperman. A center pivot irrigation system was installed in the fall of 1975.

April 8, 1978 they moved one-eighth mile west to a new home which they had built on the south side of the road.

In the fall of 1979 they put up a grain storage building on their old farmstead. In September 1979, Mel and Brad finished building a thirty-two-sow farrowing house and in October of that same year they purchased a pig nursery.

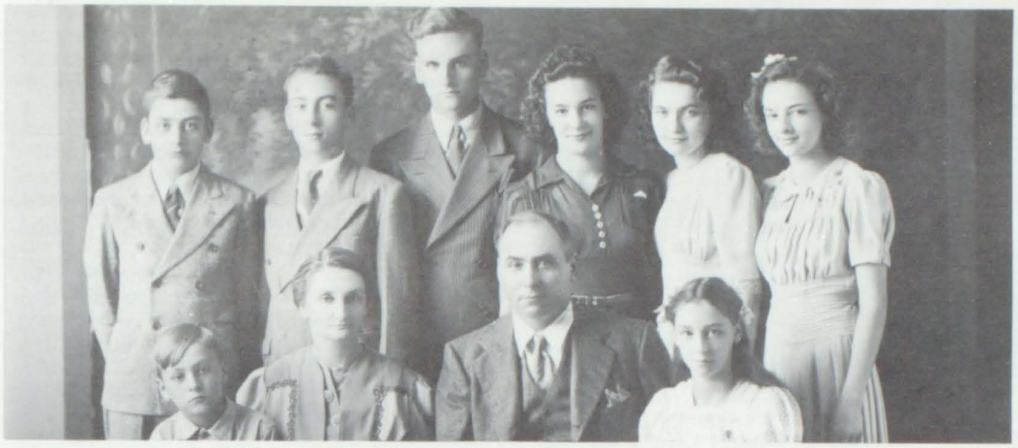
Mel farms 640 acres of which he and Shirley own 160. He rents 160 from M.K. Garrett and 320 from W.H. Carnes. He raises 500 acres of corn and some alfalfa. He raises about 2,000 hogs a year and runs some stock cows.

They belong to Fairview United Methodist Church. They enjoy bowling. *Submitted by Shirley Garrett, March 1981*

WALTER GARRETT FAMILY

A current resident of Central City, Frankie Garrett has lived in Merrick County all her life. Her mother, my grandmother, came to Merrick County from Indiana with her parents, Virginia Adaline (Richards) and Frank Giles, in 1880 when she was two years old. They settled in the community of Sunrise. My mother's father, Henry Good, son of Hopzibeth (Barber) and Thomas Good, settled in a sod-house three and one-half miles northeast of Central City in 1872 when he was six years old.

Bessie LuElla Giles and Henry Good were married March 22, 1899 and my mother Frankie Virginia Blanche, the first-born of twelve children, was born July 5, 1900. She spent her early years on their farm east of Palmer and attended the Nebraska Central Academy for three years. Her father passed away suddenly on August 7, 1943 and her mother at seventy-six years of age on August 22, 1953.



Walter Garrett Family — 1942

My father, Walter Benjamin Garrett was born on June 8, 1888 near Clarks. He was second of ten children, (two of which died in infancy), born to Mary Elizabeth (Abel) and Joseph McNeal Garrett. His father acquired one of the last homesteads in Merrick County, in the Sunrise vicinity. Aside from farming, my father worked at various jobs. He operated the Ford Garage in Central City in 1913-14 and chauffeured the businessmen and land agents that arrived by train. He served as wagoner with the HQ6TRP Army Corps in World War I from the fall of 1917 to the summer of 1919, serving with The Army of Occupation in France and Germany.

My parents were married February 17, 1920 and they made their first home just south of Palmer. It was there Warren Benjamin, now living in Grand Island, was born December 5, 1920. After moving to what they always called "the Gardner Place" east of Palmer, Virginia Elizabeth (Mrs. Thayne Stalker, Archer) was born September 10, 1922. On a warm seventy degree day February 1, 1924, they moved to the Ross farm four miles north of Central City. Fourteen days later Helen Marie (Mrs. Leonard Hoffman, Bradshaw, Nebraska) was born. The remaining five of us were all born here. Muriel Esther (Mrs. Howard Schroyer, Laramie, Wyoming) August 29, 1925. Wesley Ernest March 9, 1927 Central City. Walter Mark December 16, 1928, Great Bend, Kansas. Mary LuElla (Mrs. Hubert Fritz, Clarks) March 17, 1932. David Ross, August 1, 1934, Central City.

Surviving the Thirties my father bought the farm from the Ross Estate in 1944 and later the eighty acres adjoining it. Retiring from farming in 1957, my parents bought the two-story house on 16th Avenue and moved there in the spring. He passed away March 9, 1960 following complications from gall bladder surgery.

My mother sold the large house to Scotty Booth, who still lives there and bought the house at 1510 15th Street in Central City, where she still lives.

Besides her eight children, her descendants include thirty grandchildren and twenty-eight great-grandchildren. *Submitted by Mary (Garrett) Fritz as recalled, in part, by her mother.*

HENRY O. GAY FAMILY



Francis, Dorsey and Velma Gay — Children of Frank and Hattie Gay

Henry O. and Clarissa Gay, lived in Illinois and came to Pittsburg, Kansas in 1888. They came to Merrick County in a covered wagon. Henry O. was born 1846 and died in 1928. Clarissa was born 1857 and died in 1917. They are buried in the Pierce Chapel Cemetery.

They had three children, Frank T., Robert D. and Maude. They homesteaded a quarter section where the Community Friends Church was. They later traded it to the Stephens family for a team of horses and a farm one mile west of their homestead.

Maude went to Missouri where she married Steve Edwards. She died and was buried there. They had twelve children.

Robert D. went to Missouri where he met and married Nettie Edwards and later moved to St. Paul, Nebraska. Their children are William, Clara, Theodore, Theissa, Edward, Dolly and Everett.

Frank T. was born September 1, 1879. He worked in Fairmont for the Railroad and Elevator Company. He married Hattie Sowl from Fullerton. She was born November 18, 1881. They moved to the Pierce Chapel neighborhood. Frank died in 1959 and Hattie in 1943. They are buried in the Pierce Chapel Cemetery. Frank played the violin and Hattie the piano for many dances.

Frank T. and Hattie worked hard to get the Community Friends Church started. The first services were held in District #51 with Mr. Tunning and others from the College coming out to preach. The only regular preacher was Charles Stevens and he also worked for Lee Ferris. Frank and neighbors took teams of horses and moved the church in from near Clarks, Nebraska. They dug a basement for the church, on the Gay homesteaded quarter. The Stephens owned it at that time. Frank T. was a member of the School Board in District #51 and Hattie was Deacon on Friends Council.

In 1938 the farm was sold to Greys and the family moved to Central City west of the College Section. They lived there until 1943 when Hattie died and was buried in the Pierce Chapel Cemetery. Frank and Hattie had seven children. Francis was born in Cass County, Dorsey and Velma in the Pierce Chapel Community near the Scudder School. They moved back to the Gay farm and built a sod house on the south side where Erma was born. Later they lived in a wood house where Lyle, Orville and Dorothy were born. After Frank's mother, Clarissa died in 1917 they moved up with Frank's father, Henry and lived there until Henry died in 1928.

Francis married Vera McClure and has two sons; Dorsey married Opal Pressler, has one son; Velma, married William Gay, has three sons and one daughter; Erma married Vernon Calhoon, has three daughters; Lyle married Loretta Hansher, has one son; Orville married Dorothy Green, has two daughters and Dorothy married Jack Fritch and has one daughter.

After Hattie's death Frank lived with daughter Erma and family and later married Lottie Madison. They bought the old Kidder home on the KND highway and made a show place with her many beautiful flowers.

Frank died in 1959 and is buried in the Pierce Chapel Cemetery. Lottie is still living and a son Don and daughter Viola live with her. *Submitted by Opal and Dorsey Gay*

GEE

My grandfather, Allen Wilson Gee, was born August 21, 1856, in Onslow, Jones County, Iowa, to Wilson and Mary Jane (Holt) Gee. He was the sixth generation of the immigrant Solomon Gee who came from Devonshire, England, and settled in Lyme, Connecticut. The family, generation after generation, had moved from Connecticut to New Hampshire, to Vermont, to Indiana, and on to Iowa.

Allen Wilson's father died March 2, 1863, while in the Civil War. His mother remarried February 26, 1866, in Jones County, Iowa, to Columbus W. Hawley, but she later moved to California where she died May 15, 1928. It is not known just when Mary Jane (Holt, Gee) Hawley, with some of her children moved to Nebraska.

Allen Wilson supposedly came to Nebraska about 1878, and settled in Merrick County. He married February 10, 1886, at Central City, Nebraska, Emma Matilda Adams, daughter of John Downing and Mary Elizabeth (Lafferty) Adams. They were the parents of ten children. All were born in Merrick County with the exception of Mabel June, who was born in Nance County. Their children were: Mae Bell, November 13, 1888, married Lawrence V. Peterson, November 14, 1910; Mabel June, October 1, 1890, married Furman Carson, June 1, 1914; LaVanchie Rosetta, August 23, 1892, married first Donald D. Whitlow and after his death married Norvin G. Minder; Alfred Amos, January 10, 1894, married Elizabeth French, May 4, 1918; Ralph Marion, March 5, 1896, married Gladys Victoria Lawson, February 25, 1918; Lillian Annetta, December 24, 1898, married William Eggers, June 11, 1919; Vera Amelia, May 28, 1900, married Joseph Lytle, August 1, 1922; Melvin Wilson, November 13, 1902, married Leone Kitterman, June 6, 1931; Wyvil Adolph, March 12, 1906, married Beaulah Houghtaling, August 5, 1926; Lucille Pauline, August 27, 1909, married Lester R. Kendall, April 2, 1927.

All of their children eventually moved away from Nebraska with the exception of Mabel June Carson who is still residing in Grand Island, Nebraska, near her daughter, Lola Benson.

Emma Matilda Gee passed away December 16, 1926, in Palmer. She is buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery. She belonged to and was a faithful worker in the Christian Church in Palmer. Allen Wilson died July 21, 1934, in Palmer and is also buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery.

Allen Wilson had two brothers and one sister. His sister, Mary Amelia, died as a small child. One brother, Albert William, married and settled in Kansas City, Kansas. His other brother, Truman Alvah, came to Nebraska.

Truman Alvah was born July 22, 1860, in Jones County, Iowa. He married Chloe Armintha Peregrine February 12, 1890, in Fullerton, Nance County, Nebraska. About 1900 they moved to their home near Palmer.

They were the parents of six children: Eva Lena, August 3, 1891 married Dennis Scott, August 4, 1919; Laura Estella, August 3, 1892, married Pete Wilson; George Wilson, November 30, 1893, married first Susan Colborn and after her death married Madeline Reynolds (George is still living with his daughter in Tilden, Nebraska); John William March 10, 1896, married Edna L. Montgomery, April 14, 1917; Truman Alvah, July 1, 1897, married Etoile Colborn, June 28, 1919; and Ella Arminta, October 25, 1898, married Arthur Liberty, November 8, 1916.

Chloe Gee passed away December 13, 1944 and Truman Gee, April 20, 1955. They are both buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Palmer. *Submitted by Jacquelyn Glavinick*

MAX GEE FAMILY

Gerald Maxon Gee was born on St. Patricks Day in 1922, to John William and Edna Lillian Montgomery Gee, at Palmer, Nebraska. He grew up and went to school at Cotesfield, Nebraska, graduating with the Class of "39." Max went to Bremerton, Washington, and worked in the shipyards until he enlisted in the Air Force. He was discharged from service in 1945 at Lincoln, Nebraska. His folks had purchased the "Gene Clement" farm five miles west and one-half mile north of Central City. Max returned home to help his father with the farming. He met Ida Marie McMahon and they were married August 4, 1946, at St. Michaels Catholic Church.

Ida Marie was born December 21, 1925 to Edward Michael and Mary Eleanor Halstead McMahon, on the family farm, five miles west and one-half mile south of Central City. She went to District #38 school and Central City High, graduating with the Class of 44.

Marie and Max moved to the "John Donovan" farm, one mile south of Chapman, right after their marriage and lived there for twenty-two years, being active in the Baptist Church; Masonic Lodge of which Max is a Past Worshipful Master; Laura May Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, of which they are Past Worthy Matron and Past Worthy Patron.

They have five daughters: Diane Marie born September 24, 1947, Rebecca Kay born March 29, 1949, Hyla Rae born March 4, 1951, Barbara Jean born November 28, 1954, and Patricia June born April 13, 1956. All of the girls joined the Baptist Church of Chapman and went to the Chapman Public School. They graduated from Central City High School.

Diane married Robert Earl Evers from Grand Island and they have two sons, Robert John and Eric Mathew. They live in Kearney, Nebraska, where Robert attends Kearney State College.

Becky married Dennis Gene Sealey from Polk, Nebraska. They have three sons, Gregory Scott, Jason Dean, and Kyle Ray. They live in Seattle, Washington, where Dennis is the head trainer at the University of Washington.

Hyla married Dennis Wynnet McLean of Clarks, and they have three sons and one daughter, Jeffrey Michael, Andrew Paul, Brendan Leonard, and Abbie Lanae. They farm in the Pierce Chapel area northwest of Clarks.

Barbara (Bobbi) married Stephen Joseph Seymour of Rochester, New York. They have two sons and a daughter, Danial Joseph, Rebecca Jean, and Edward Maxon. They are stationed in Laurium, Michigan, where Steve is with the United States Coast Guard.

Patricia June married Leroy Craig "Pete" McHargue. They have one daughter, Rachel Alison. They live in Lincoln, where Pete is going to the University since his discharge from the Air Force. Patti works for educational television (ETV).

Max farmed for twenty-two years, then bought a Texaco bulk truck and business from his good friend, Kenneth Berstler of Chapman. He has been in this business for several years, serving the farmers in the Central City, Chapman, and Grand Island areas.

Marie and Max bought The Gee farm home when Max's father was killed in a car-train accident. For recreation they enjoy golfing and dancing.

Their special interests center around their home with their daughters, sons-in-law and the thirteen grand children. *Submitted by Marie Gee*

GEE — COLBORN

The Colborn and Gee family names are a familiar part of the history of Merrick County and both are very meaningful to me, as my mother was a Colborn and my father was a Gee. I am Gertrude Andrews, the oldest daughter of Alvah and Etoile Gee. There are people who will recall many tales about these early settlers involved in our past heritage, but I can only share their names.



Alvah Gee Family

My mother, Etoile Colborn, was born in Merrick County and lived here her entire life. She married Alvah Gee in Grand Island on June 28, 1919. Their children were Gertrude, Wayne, Richard, Virginia, Jay, Lyle, Betty, and Suzanne, who grew up o n the farm one mile south of Palmer and attended District #41 and Palmer schools.

Etoile was the daughter of Hiram Ernest (born in Wisconsin) and Mary Virginia (Goodrich) Colborn (born in Indiana). They came to Merrick County in 1872 and lived three miles south of Palmer until they moved to California in 1919. Their children were Ben, Mary Gertrude, Lisle, Etoile, Avery, Katheryn, and Jessie.

My grandfather, Hiram Colborn, was the son of Abram (born in New York, died 1903) and Mary Comfort) Colborn born in Canada, died in 1899). Other children in this family were Alonzo, George, John, Benjamin, Abe, and sisters, Katie, Mable, and Nettie. Three Colborn boys and their children also resided in the Palmer community. The Abram Colborn grave marker is just inside the gate at Rose Hill Cemetery at Palmer. I'll bet they shared in a wealth of early history in this community.

Mary Virginia (Goodrich) Colborn was one of three daughters born to Calahill (born 1834, died 1889) and Gertrude (Leroy) Goodrich (born 1831, died 1916). Their other daughters were Laura May (Knapp) and Phoebe Jane (Norton-Smith). This family also has a beautiful old grave marker at Rose Hill Cemetery.

My father, Alvah, was the son of Truman Alvah and Chloe (Peregrine) Gee, who were married February 12, 1891. To this union were born Evalene (Lena Scott), Lura (Wilson), George, John, Truman Alvah, and Ella (Liberty). My grandparents resided on a farm north of Palmer, where we held many happy family reunions, with everyone gathered around the piano singing. Then Grandmother would play the harmonica.

Truman Alvah was one of three sons and a daughter born to Wilson and Mary Jane (Holt) Gee. Chloe was the oldest daughter of George and Eliza (DeLay) Peregrine whose children were Chloe, William, Mary, Ella Mabel (Nesbitt), Estella (Vaughn), Joseph, Jacob, Ray and Bertha (Black). These families resided in this area, many at Fullerton.

We are proud to live where past generations of our family were pioneers. I married Thomas L. Andrews on June 2, 1946, at the Palmer Church of Christ. The wedding reception was held in the home where we now live. I remember the rows of homemade angel food cakes my mother served so many wedding guests.

During the next thirty-one years, our family made many trips to Nebraska for weddings of brothers and sisters, for the twenty-fifth wedding anniversary of my parents, and many happy vacations. Our three children, Samuel, Michael, and Carolyn, loved to come visit grandmother, but they were not very old when their grandfather passed away in 1956. After the estate was settled, my husband and I retired and returned to Nebraska to make our home. *Submitted by Gertrude E. Andrews*

BONNIE HUDNALL GELLING

Bonnie Hudnall Gelling, the oldest daughter of Ernest and Blanche Raser Hudnall, graduated from Chapman High School in 1941. When her only daughter was two she began her college education at Nebraska Central College in the summer of 1949. She started her teaching career that fall at District #2 North with nine pupils and a yearly salary of $1,620. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1959. She earned her master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado in 1970.

Her uninterrupted teaching career has been in four Merrick County schools: District #2 North, District #17, District #9 and District #4 where she teaches first grade. A member of Delta Kappa Gamma International, a society that honors out-

standing women educators, she has been state treasurer of that organization since 1975. Her home in Central City is shared with her daughter, Nita Gelling Cloran and her grandchildren, Alana and Sean. *Submitted by Bonnie Gelling*

ROLAND & DORIS GIBSON

Twin sons, Roland and Royal Gibson, were born to Edna and Ray Gibson at Ulysses, Nebraska in 1916. The family moved to Clarks, Nebraska in 1922, where the boys attended school. Roland's parents moved to Central City in 1939, where they resided until their passing. Royal passed away in 1964.

Roland's paternal grandparents, William and Luella Gibson, came to Nebraska from Illinois and Indiana in the 1860's. They were the parents of eleven children and resided north of Clarks, before moving to Central City, Nebraska. Roland's maternal grandmother, Sarah Miller, born in Iowa, came to Nebraska in 1870. She was married to Franklin Miller. Five children were born. Later she lived in the Gibson Home until her passing, age ninety-six.

My paternal grandparents, Eugene and Mary Rice, came to Merrick County from Indiana and Michigan in 1885, homesteaded the farm north of Chapman, Nebraska. Nine children were born to that union. They retired at Chapman.

Edward and Ida Jeffreys were my maternal grandparents, who came to Nebraska from Tennessee and Illinois. The family of eight children moved to the Prairie Creek area in 1913, where Ida died. Edward moved his family to Central City where he served as County judge for ten years. He married Clara Farnham, residing here.

Floyd Rice and Ada Jeffreys were married in 1916 and farmed the Rice home place. The family of Albert, Iona, Donald, and myself, Doris M. were born at the farm home. My earlier years hold many fond memories of Prairie Creek Church and Chapman School.

We moved to a farm near Clarks, where the four of us graduated from high school. My parents and sister are deceased.

I met Roland while in high school in Clarks, and were married in 1937. We lived in Wyoming and Omaha, where our children JoAnn, Judith and Jerald were born.

In 1945 we purchased the Eoff Grocery Store in Central City.

Roland was elected County Sheriff in 1950. He served two years of the second term, moving into new living quarters in the second term.

In 1957 Roland accepted employment as Safety Supervisor with Denver-Chicago Trucking Company.

Our children received most of their education in Central City schools. JoAnn and Judy graduated here, then went on to college. Jerald graduated from Westside School, Omaha.

In eighteen years with the Trucking Company, we moved many times before retiring in 1976, then returned home to Central City.

In 1978, Roland was appointed Administrator of Merrick Manor Retirement Home. This is his home away from home.

Always having an interest in public affairs, Roland could not resist a bid for the Mayor's office, and was elected to serve in 1978.

Our children have lived in Nebraska, except for John and Judy Sharp who moved to Missouri in 1976. Jerry and Jo Ann McCormick live in Madrid, Nebraska and have six children, three in college. Jerald and Shirley Gibson reside in Lincoln. They have two children. *Submitted by Doris H. Rice Gibson*

WILFRED & EMMA GIBSON

Wilfred and Emma Murch Gibson came to Central City from Appleton, Wisconsin in 1902 so that Wilfred might join the Nebraska Central College faculty.

Wilfred was born in North Collin, New York, April 4, 1843. He served in the Union Army in the Civil War and had been a teacher and superintendent of schools in Appleton prior to coming to Central City. His wife, Emma, was born November 16, 1851 in Appleton, was educated there and had been a teacher in the Appleton schools prior to her marriage. They were accompanied by Wilfred's mother, Elizabeth Austin Gibson, who was born in Vermont July 9, 1825. She was a physician and had served as a nurse for the Union Army in the Civil War. She died May 6, 1904 in Central City.

Wilfred and Emma's only child, Raymond, was born in Appleton, Wisconsin, August 10, 1892 and was nine years old when the family came to Central City. Wilfred and Emma purchased an acreage near the college and made their home there as long as they were able to care for it.

Grace Watkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Watkins, came to Central City from Perkins County Nebraska to attend Nebraska Central Academy and here she met Raymond Gibson. Both were graduated from Nebraska Central Academy and Raymond attended Nebraska Central College. They were married May 27, 1916 and spent the first four years of their married life homesteading in Colorado. While living in Colorado their two daughters were born — Ruth (Mrs. Evan VanZant, Peru, Nebraska) May 12, 1927, and Reva Mrs. Leonard Ferguson, Horsham, Pennsylvania) February 2, 1920.

In 1920 Raymond and Grace returned to Central City to live and soon after this Wilfred and Emma came to live in their home. Wilfred died April 11, 1924 and Emma continued to make her home with Raymond and Grace and their family until her death July 2, 1931.

The Raymond Gibson family lived in Central City and in his parent's home on the college section. In 1935 they moved into the college building and Grace served as manager of the dining hall until 1943. Raymond worked as a mechanic and electrician and as an owner-operator of an appliance store.

They moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1952. (Raymond died in Lincoln) January 13, 1960. Grace married Clyde McIntosh in Lincoln June 1, 1965. She died in Lincoln June 8, 1976.

All deceased members of the family are buried in the Central City cemetery.

Ruth and Reva are graduates of Central City High School and Nebraska Central College. The College and the Friends Meeting in Central City were important to all members of the family and they served both faithfully. *Submitted by Ruth VanZant*

GILBERT HISTORY

David Gilbert came from Pennsylvania to Hicksville, Ohio where he married his wife Katie Keagy. They had two sons. Charles died in the Civil War, at Nashville, Tennessee in 1861. The other son died at birth. Much later Katie passed away.

Christinia, Katie's younger sister, then married David Gilbert in 1846. Christinia and David had ten children. Jonathan and Daniel died when small. Margaret Ann, Maria, Mary Magdalen, Morgen David, Jr., Ellsworth, Benjamin Franklin and Laura Ellen Gilbert all came west to Clarks, Nebraska. Maria who married stayed in Ohio.

The decision to move west was made mainly because David Gilberts health was bad. He had made a trip to Nebraska in recent years and thought his health was much better in this area. He also became aware of the Timber Culture Act, which attracted him. Upon returning home he sold the Ohio farm of 240 acres of excellent land to move to the rich Platte River valley. It was here he took advantage of the new Timber Culture Act that had been approved by Congress two years previous in 1874.

He staked his claim two and one-half miles north of Clarks, Nebraska and planted a large grove of cottonwood trees. The trees were later made into lumber planks for a new barn. David built a very small home that housed the nine members of his family.

Much to David Gilbert's disappointment, good health did not return. In only a matter of years he died leaving his wife and seven remaining children.

Christinia battled drought and grasshoppers with the help of the children. Finally she gave up, rented out the land, and moved into the village of Clarks. She moved into a two story house just west of the present library. Magie Gilbert married and lived two houses north of the present library. The rest of



Gilbert Timber Claim

the children moved away from Clarks, but Laura, the youngest, remained with her mother.

Laura graduated in the second class to graduate from Clarks High School. From here she spent a short time at the University of Nebraska Normal School. She taught in several rural schools in Hamilton, Merrick, and Polk county and in her home district. When Laura taught school in District #5, Merrick County, she was awarded a solid gold inscribed ring. It was presented to her for the quick action and bravery in saving both the school children and the building from a raging prairie fire.

Laura Gilbert Brown was one of the ten charter members of the "Edelesin" Club formed on December 1895. In 1918 the name was changed to Research Club.

In 1896, she married a local businessman, Charles R. Brown. They had one daughter, Florence Brown Snider now of Central City, one granddaughter, Phoebe Snider McCullough who now teaches in Central City and one grandson, Jeff McCullough, in the film business in St. Louis, Missouri.

David Gilbert's family have been the recipient of "Aksarben Farm Award" for his Timber Claim remaining in one family for over one hundred years. *Submitted by Phoebe McCullough*

FRED GILLIARD FAMILY

Fred Gilliards parents — John was born on the high seas coming to the U.S. from Europe. Mary Ann was born in Ohio. They married in Illinois and left in 1866 by covered wagon. They first went to Salina, Kansas, then Ashland, Nebraska, then settled in Clarks, Nebraska in a sod house, on an island in the Platte River, where Fred was born November 20, 1879.

When a child, he played with Pawnee Indian children. Grandchildren were told about the blizzard of 1888. When locusts or crickets came, day became night. All crops and vegetation were destroyed.

Fred had two sisters and two brothers. He remained in Clarks, where except for a short time in Cozad and Grand Island, he lived all of his life.

After finishing school, he worked at Shonsey's Ranch, then learned to be a barber, which trade he followed for over fifty-four years. When he was eighty years old, he retired. He was the oldest barber



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gilliard

in the state.

He and Nancy Myrtle Wilson (she liked Myrtle better than Nancy so always went by that name) were married in November 1900.

To this union, five children were born, two girls died as babies, and Clifford when he was nineteen.

Remaining are Corrinne and Frank. Corrinne and husband, A.P. Deutsch have retired and live in Wickenburg, Arizona. Frank and wife, Winnie, live in Jacksonville, Florida. Their son, Dan, teaches at University of California at Hayward, California. He is a professor of Ancient History and Humanities.

Myrtle Wilson was born in Sparta, Illinois, July 15, 1881. The family moved to Clarks when she was a baby. Parents, Henry and Emma Wilson established a farm near Clarks. Myrtle had three sisters and three brothers.

Her father, Henry Wilson, had served with honor and distinction with the Union Army during the Civil War.

We Fred Gilliards all belonged to the Congregational Church.

Myrtle and Fred attended all dances and social functions. They loved to dance and sing.

They grew up with Indians in their early years, and they saw the Union Pacific small coal powered engines pull small passinger coaches and box cars along the tracks; they also saw and heard the high pressured deisel engines pull one hundred or more freight cars as they passed thru, shaking the earth at all hours of the day and night.

Fred knew everybody around Clarks and Merrick County area. Everybody knew him.

Due to advanced age, they sold their home at Clarks and entered Park View Home in Central City (which is now Bethesda Care Center) where Fred died April 22, 1969.

Myrtle lingered and died there June 17, 1978 at the age of ninety-six, a month short of her ninety-seventh birthday.

Myrtle and Fred were early pioneers around Clarks and Merrick County area. They had many dear friends. They were considered good neighbors *Submitted by Corrinne G. Deutsch, Nina E. Tucker, cousin*

LEONARD & GLADYS GLANTZ

Leonard Glantz of Harvard, Nebraska, married Gladys Myers, who was born at Central City, Nebraska, Merrick Co. Our first home was at 421 D. Street, a duplex we shared with Clara Wilder and her two sons, Dale and Dean. Clara worked at the Pure Food Grocery Store. We shared the same entrance, stairway, and bathroom. Rent was $7.00 a month and our utilities, as then we could get by on the minimum, $3.00 — $1.00 each for gas, water and lights. We heated with a fuel oil burner. We bought the home at 2129 13th Street in 1939 and I, Gladys, still live at this address.

Leonard owned and operated the Glantz Oil Co., first at the site now (1981) of the American Legion Club, later moving to the new filling station built by Champlin Refining Co. at the site now (1981) of the Central Bank Parking Lot. He was owner-operator of the Glantz Farm Service Ford Tractor and Equipment Co. until his death in 1972, this business location being across the street south of the Presbyterian Church.

Leonard served two terms as Mayor of Central City and more than thirty years as a Volunteer Fireman, a number of years on the Merrick Co. Fair Board, and was president of the Fair Board at the time of his death. Leonard and Gladys are the parents of four children: Donald, Jean (Larkins), Vickie (Farrer), and Larry, none residing in Merrick Co. in 1981. *Written by Gladys Myers Glantz*

RALPH GLASSER FAMILY

Mildred Eliza Cole, youngest child of Robert Mory Cole and Martha Elnor Richmond was born 23 February 1901 in Clarksville, Nebraska.

When Mildred was only seven years old her mother died. In 1910 her father decided to move to Canada. He put his household goods and stock in a railroad car and he and the four youngest children, which included Mildred, traveled by passenger train to Redcliff, Alberta, where he homesteaded.

The family lived in a tent on the Canadian prairie until a house was built. Life was very lonely for Mildred, a little girl of nine, as there were no close neighbors. During the school term Robert paid room and board in town for Mildred so she could attend classes.

When Mildred was fifteen years old, Jessie, her older sister, was married and this left Mildred in charge of keeping house, which included cooking for the threshing crew.

Mildred can still remember how happy she was when her father bought her a pony so she could ride to town and visit her friends.

In 1922 Mildred's older sister Mary was ill and Mildred returned to Clarks to help care for her.

Mildred later found employment in Polk and while making her home in Polk she met her husband-to-be. For a year before her marriage, she worked for Mrs. Lawson in the floral shop in Central City. Her love for flowers and gardening continued to be a hobby for Mildred throughout her life.

Mildred and Ralph McCain Glasser, son of Robert and Melissa Adams Glasser of Polk, were married at Polk 12 December 1928. Two sons, Ronald Dale and Marvin Earl were born to them while they lived near Polk.



Ralph and Mildred Glasser

During the thirties times were hard for everyone. Seeing better farming opportunities across the river near Clarks, Ralph and Mildred, in 1937, purchased a farm along the Platte River. They moved from Polk to a farm in 1938 which was in School District #7, where the children attended school and Ralph served as a board member. In 1947 they moved 'across the road West' to their farm which had been the Herman Holm farm, where they lived until their retirement in 1966 to Clarks. Ralph received great enjoyment in tilling the soil and continued to be a part of the farming operation as long as his health allowed.

Ralph and Mildred were active members of the Clarks Methodist Church. Mildred retained her membership in W.S.C.S., Research Club, Sunnyside Club, and Eastern Star as long as her health permitted. Ralph was a member of Masonic Lodge #134.

Only a few months after moving into their new home in Clarks, Mildred fell breaking her hip. She never fully recovered from the hip surgery which followed and has been in failing health since that time.

Ralph passed away 13 November 1974. He is buried in the family plot in the Clarks Cemetery.

Mildred has since made her home at the Bethesda Care Center in Central City. *Submitted by Mildred Glasser and Dorothy Glasser*

RONALD & DOROTHY GLASSER

Ronald Dale Glasser with his parents, Ralph and Mildred Glasser, and brother Marvin, came to Clarks from Polk, Nebraska, when Ronald was seven years old.

Ronald continued his elementary education at District #7 and was graduated from Clarks High School. In 1951 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and trained at San Diego with Seabee training at Port Hueneme in California. His four years of duty included Davisville, Rhode Island, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Port-Lyautey, French Morocco, Africa. Following his honorable discharge, Ronald helped his father on the farm and continued his education at UN-L and Milford Trade School.

Never forgotten was Ronald's schoolmate at District #59 in Polk County. Ronald and I, Dorothy Ann Dahlin, daughter of Hilding Dewey and Anna Christine Newman Dahlin, were married at the Polk Methodist Church, 25 May 1957.

Until our marriage my life was occupied with church activities, teaching, college studies and helping care for my invalid mother.

We became parents of two children. Debra Ann was born 6 June 1959 but was called to her Heavenly Home after only a short nineteen months with us. Ronda Jeanne arrived 2 December 1962 and has added much joy to our lives.

There was a time when we had not planned for farming to be our life's occupation, but when we purchased the family home in 1967 from Ronald's parents, we had made the decision that this community, close to the peaceful Platte River, would always be home. Over three thousand man hours of construction time for Ronald, and my many gallons of stain and varnish transformed the house, which had been built around the turn of the century, into a modern home.

Along with our row crop farming and cattle operation, Ronald has spent many hours in bin building and machinery construction and repair. Often Ronald can be found late at night putting the finishing touches to a piece of machinery so it will be field-ready in the morning.

Helping with the history of Clarks during the Bicentennial increased Ronald's interests in photography, genealogy and history. Spare time is now centered on tracing family history.

Ronald is a Past Master of Solar Lodge #134, a director of the Merrick County Historical Society and presently serving as a trustee of Merrick Foundation. During the 1960's he worked for the ASCS.



Ronald, Dorothy, and Ronda Glasser

Working with children has been both a rewarding and challenging experience for me; this is why I chose to spend nineteen years teaching in both rural and public schools in the area before retiring to just occasional substituting. Equally satisfying has been my association with the 4-H and sharing my appreciation for music, piano and vocal.

Ronda was graduated from Clarks Public School as an honor student and co-salutatorian of her 1981 class. She was active in music receiving the National Band, John Philip Sousa and Choral Awards and superior ratings in piano and flute competion. Some other activities included Goldenrod Conference Speech, FHA, and editor of yearbook. Ronda

received a scholarship to Nebraska Wesleyan University where she plans to major in English. Crowned 1980 Merrick County 4-H Queen, she has been an active 4-H member for nine years. Ronda has enjoyed working at Bethesda Care Center for the past year.

Ronald, Ronda and I are all active members of the Clarks United Methodist Church where we have served in various capacities through the years.

When Ronda became a member of Ivy Chapter #210 OES, our family membership was complete.

As we focus our attention to the years ahead, we want to take time for the things we enjoy most — family, friends and traveling. *Submitted by Dorothy Glasser*

MARVIN EARL GLASSER

Marvin Earl Glasser, son of Ralph M. and Mildred E. Glasser, was born June 11, 1935, in York, Nebraska.

I attended Clarks High School (1944-53), Midland College in Fremont, 1953-57), University of Nebraska, Lincoln (1957-59), and Colorado State University, Fort Collins, (1962-64 and 1965-70), with B.S. and M.S. degrees in Physics and Ph.D. work in the Atmospheric Sciences.

On September 1, 1963, in Fort Collins, Colorado, I married Elaine Winger of Brush, Colorado. Our first son, Brian Kent, was born August 22, 1970, in Fort Collins, Colorado. Our second son, Kevin Shawn, was born October 22, 1973, in Kearney, Nebraska. The family resides in Kearney, Nebraska, at 4015 Linden Drive.

During the past years, I have done research on missile sensors with the Naval Ordinance Labs in Corona, California; research on the transport of atmospheric radioactivity from nuclear weapon tests for the Atomic Energy Commission, in Fort Collins, Colorado; research on the use of computer simulation modeling to predict the environmental impact of the launch clouds from Space Shuttle launches for NASA, at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. I have also taught classes at Midland College, Hastings College, and Kearney State College.

My current activities include serving as Professor of Physical Science and as Chairman of the Department of Physics and Physical Science at Kearney State College. I teach courses in Physics, Physical Science, and Meteorology, and am currently conducting research under a grant from NASA on the Space Shuttle Program.

I have also done lecturing to audiences throughout Nebraska on Solar Energy Application, the Space Shuttle, and Energy Conservation. I have published several articles and retain memberships in professional and honor societies, and received a Teacher of the Year Award in 1974. *Submitted by Marvin E. Glasser*

LOY & NORMA JEAN GLAUSE

Loy Elvid and Norman Jean Homfeld Glause were married March 2, 1957, and first lived in Merrick County southwest of Worms on the farm where Loy's mother was born, known as the Paul Wagner Farm. Loy was from a family of ten children and was born October 28, 1932, to Phillip William and Stella Rosa Wagner Glause. Loy was baptized in November 1932, attended Zion Lutheran School, and was confirmed in 1946. He graduated from St. Paul High School and was drafted into the Army in 1953, serving two years of active duty.

Norma Jean (Jeanie), one of six daughters of Henry and Ruby Schmidt Homfeld, was born August 27, 1938, in Otoe County northwest of Unadilla, Nebraska. She was baptized in October 1938. Jeanie attended rural schools in Otoe County, moved with her family to Grand Island in 1951, and graduated from Grand Island Senior High in 1956. She lived in Grand Island at the time of her marriage.

Jeanie was confirmed at Zion Lutheran in Worms in 1957, following her marriage to Loy and the family belongs to that congregation. In April 1962, Loy and Jeanie moved to a farm south of Palmer which they purchased from Otto Kuppinger. They farmed and raised registered Angus Cattle. In 1963 they started raising watermelons and started a road-side vegetable stand, adding other produce as the years went along. The entire family helps with raising and selling produce.

Loy and Jeanie have thirteen children. Cynthia Sue, born January 1958, married Chris Salzgaber in April 1977. They have a son Lee, born April 1980, and live in Loup City. Randy Lane, born January 1959, presently lives and works in Grand Island, along with his brothers Kevin Wade, born May 1960 and Galen Mark born August 1962. Daughter Amy Janet is also living and working in Grand Island. At home are Brian Clay born January 1964, Joy Gwen born January 1966, Aaron Keith born December 1967, Dawn Rebecca born December 1968, Nathan Phillip born February 1970, Elaine Ruby born July 1971, Clayton Henry born October 1972, and Penny Stella born October 1974. All children in the family attended or attend Zion Lutheran School in Worms. The older ones graduated from Palmer High School. They have participated in many sports activities and the whole family attends sporting events in which the members are involved.

Jeanie is a member of Cheerie Center Club, joining in 1958, and enjoys knitting, crocheting, and other crafts. *Submitted by Jeanie Homfeld Glause*

WILLIAM & STELLA GLAUSE

Phillip William (Bill), son of Phillip and Minnie Dulitz Glause, was born December 12, 1904. He grew up on the family farm one mile south and one mile west of Worms, just across the line into Howard County. Bill went to school in Howard County. He had three brothers and seven sisters.

Stella Rosa Wagner, daughter of Paul Henry and Antonia Christine Buchfinck Wagner, was born October 23, 1909, the youngest of four children.

Bill and Stella were married October 17, 1927, at Zion Lutheran in Worms. They lived with Stella's father for a few months while their house was being built. They then moved across the road into Howard County on Bill's folks' place. His parents had retired and moved to Grand Island.

In August 1938, Stella's father died. Bill and Stella got the Wagner home place. In 1940, Ed Seim drilled their first irrigation well. It was run by an old Titan tractor, which now belongs to Verona and LeRoy Seim. LeRoy has exhibited this tractor at the Merrick County Fair. The farm received REA hook-up in 1938, but electric motors for irrigation didn't come until some years later. They had an electric cream separator and in January 1939, they bought a refrigerator.

Bill and Stella had ten children. Verona married LeRoy Seim, Loy married Norma Jean Homfeld, Larry married Myrna Wright, Naomi married Robert Rouse, Gene married Janice Klein, Andy married Janette McKoski, and Paul married Marie Kyriss. Gene died in 1976. Deceased also are Billie, Clayton, and a baby boy. There are thirty-one grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The children all attended parochial school at Zion Lutheran in Worms where the family attended church. Four of Bill and Stella's children have lived on the old Paul Wagner Farm: Verona and LeRoy, Loy and Jeanie, Gene and Janice, and Andy and Jeanette. The children all live in the Worms area except Naomi who makes her home in Tucson, Arizona.

Bill passed away December 10, 1975, and is buried at Zion Lutheran in Worms.

Stella has been a member of Cheerie Center Club since December 1953. She enjoys reading and gardening and visiting with her large family. She has been a member of Dorcas Ladies Aid at Zion for many years. *Submitted by Mrs. William Glause*

ERNEST GLEASON FAMILY

Ernest Beliah Gleason was born August 19, 1885 on a farm west of Central City, living in Merrick County all of his life. He attended grade school at District 48. He was the oldest child of William E. Gleason and Sophia Jane Yount Gleason. His brothers, Dick, Delmer, Harry and Donald, sisters Nita Knudsen, Minnie Surface and Hazel McFarland were all born in Merrick County.

Ernest grew up as a young man on the "Conner Farm" nine miles north of Central City. He met Ella Nora Langston, who was born May 6, 1889 at McFall, Missouri, living with her sister and husband



Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gleason
1947

Emmett and Cora Skidmore who lived just a mile from the Conner farm. Ella worked as a housekeeper for the neighbors earning $1.00 a week.

Ernest and Ella were married on Tuesday December 14, 1909 in Fullerton, Nebraska. An account of their wedding in the Republican and Record newspaper described Ernest as a most industrious and reliable young man in the county, well liked by all who knew him and deserving of all good things that can befall him. His bride was described as a winsome young lady, making her home with her sister and highly spoken of by those who enjoyed her acquaintance.

After they were married they lived in Central City, where Ernie worked as a drayman for the Agnew Grocery Store. Two children Erma, now Mrs. Dean Kyes and Harold were born in town. They moved to the Conner farm in 1916 where they lived for thirteen years. Ernie's brother, Harry, lived with them and they farmed together and raised horses. Three more children were born: Marjorie, who died at the age of ten months, Dorothy, now Mrs. Harold Ferguson and Audrey, Mrs. Vernie Smith.

Ernie enjoyed his neighbors. There were haying crews together and he especially enjoyed threshing grain with Herbert and Otto Peterson, Fred and Joe Neuhofel, Fred Hayes and several others. The womenfolk would have their cookstoves going early in the morning baking pies, cakes, homemade bread, baked beans, lots of coffee and home brewed tea. About the time they got the dinner dishes done then it was time for lunch. The kids' job was to get the homemade butter and fresh cream up from the small tank by the windmill.

Ernie left the Conner farm in 1929 and bought a farm seven miles north of Central City known as the Peterson Farm and lost it in 1933. Twins were born in January 19, 1930, Geraldine Mae, now Mrs. Roy Kaiser and Gerald Marvin. These were very hard years as it was during the drought. I can remember several days how Dad was so discouraged when the hot south winds blew and the corn shriveled up to nubbins.

The folks moved to Central City in 1952 because Ella was in poor health. She passed away June 14, 1953 of cancer at the age of 64. Ernest died March 19, 1959 of a heart attack at the age of 74. All of their children remain in Merrick County but one, Dorothy, who lives in Cheyenne, Wyoming. *Submitted by Geraldine Kaiser*

GERALD MARVIN GLEASON

Gerald and I were born in rural Merrick County in 1930. He is the youngest of seven children born to Ernest and Ella Gleason. Five still live in Merrick County, one in Wyoming, and one deceased. Mrs. Geraldine Kaiser is his twin.

Gerald was educated in a rural school and graduated from Central City High School in 1947. He farmed with his father until he was inducted into the United States Army and served for two years. He was stationed in California and Bremerhaven, Germany, being honorably discharged as a Corporal in 1953.

My parents are Cecil and Mildred Rawlings; both still living in Merrick County. They had eight children; of which I am third, and one deceased. I received my education in Howard, Nance, Hall and



Gerald M. Gleason Family

Merrick Counties of Nebraska and graduated from Central City High School in 1948. I attended school at Nebraska Central College in Central City and was a rural teacher for five years. Other employment was with the Merrick County Assessor's office.

We were married in 1951 in a rural church in the community in which we grew up. After he returned from service, we lived on my parents farm, later moving to the Fairview community, residing there for sixteen years. In 1975, we purchased the J.O. Rawlings farm, he being my grandfather.

We have a family of five daughters, all born in the Central City hospitals. The four oldest have graduated from the Central City High School. Kathleen, our oldest, lives in South Carolina where she is a bank teller. Her husband, Dennis Killham, is a native of Merrick County. Regan, their daughter, is our only grandchild. Donna is a registered nurse, living in Lincoln. She received her education from Nebraska Western College at Scottsbluff and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Sandra graduated from the Grand Island School of Business and is an accountant in Grand Island. Karolee is attending Kearney State College with a goal of being an elementary teacher. Robin, our youngest, is a student at Central City High School. Our four oldest children attended rural school District #18 until seventeen schools consolidated with the Central City School. We so enjoyed the PTA meetings, Christmas programs, and the annual school picnics that were held in each district.

Our family is active in the Fairview United Methodist Church. Gerald is active in the Masonic Lodge of Nebraska where he has been Worshipful Master; we both are members of the Order of Eastern Star, of which Gerald is a Past Patron. Four of our daughters are Past Honored Queens in the International Order of Job's Daughters. Robin's goal is to also be Honored Queen in 1982. 4-H is another organization the girls have enjoyed and learned much. Sewing, crocheting, knitting, playing the piano and reading are our hobbies. In spite of the hard work and long hours spent in farming, we are happy to be a part of the rural area. *Submitted by Delores Rawlings Gleason*

OSVIL GLYNN FAMILY

Distance has been no problem in our family for several generations.

Osvil's grandparents and parents were natives of Ireland. His grandfather was a jockey in County Kildare. The grandparents brought their family to this country in 1888 and after a year in Iowa, they moved to Keith County, Nebraska, where they lived the rest of their lives. Osvil's father, W.J. Glynn, was nine years old at that time. In 1900, he came to Merrick County in a covered wagon and settled in the Loup Valley Community northeast of Palmer. Here he met and married Elizabeth Watchorn who had come over from County Carlow, Ireland. They spent most of their married lives on a farm in Loup Valley. To them were born two sons, Ernest and Osvil, and a daughter, Elizabeth Freitag.

My father was W.M. Weber. He was born and grew to manhood near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He was of Pennsylvania Dutch heritage. Nebraska became his home because of a brother, Harry, and family living here.

My mother, Mary Amanda Geherty, was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico to James Geherty and Isabel (Lambert) Geherty. My Grandfather Geherty followed the trade of a plasterer. My parents raised three daughters and three sons. They are Mrs. Harold (Elma) Campbell, Mrs. Warren (Dorothy) Hockman, Donald, Lynn, Gerald, and myself, Mrs. Osvil (Grace) Glynn.

Osvil and I were married in 1930 and celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary on August 23, 1980. We have spent all of our fifty years on the same farm where we are living. We are retired, still working but at a different pace.

In June, 1980, Osvil was given the Merrick County Outstanding Stockmans Award by the Lone Tree Rodeo Association.



Osvil and Grace Glynn

Our family includes Lila, with her husband, Cleon Schwarz, and children Carol and Jerran (husband) Jackson, Rhonda, Kirk and his wife Debbie, and Colleen. Our son Paul, and his wife Gloria (Helzer) have three sons, John, Pat and Russell. Next comes Lorene, then Roy, his wife Nancy (Hansen) and children, Brian (deceased 1979) and Becky. Then there are Karen, her husband Lawrence Lunn, and children Diana and Mark. James is next, then Joe, his wife Mary Jo (Fulton) and children Jennifer and Greg.

At this time they are living in Colorado, Indiana, Connecticut and Nebraska. *Submitted by Grace Glynn*

CLIFFORD GOERL FAMILY

Clifford Fritz Goerl was born near Clarks on March 14, 1905. He was a farmer all of his life and loved flowers and liked to fish. He was an all around handy man, was busy all of the time doing odd jobs for people. He also sheared sheep for a number of years.



Clifford and Esther Goerl

Clifford's parents were John Goerl, born December 16, 1866, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Hannah May Sims, born March 10, 1883, near Clarks. They were married August 6, 1901. John Goerl came to Central City when there were only four houses north of the tracks (date unknown).

They lived in the Clarks community until 1927, then moved to Archer and established their home in Merrick County.

Clifford Goerl and Esther Suck were married at Clay Center, Nebraska on March 21, 1931. Esther is the daughter of Albert Suck and Martha Wegner Suck. She was born at Scotia in Greeley County on March 25, 1907. They kept their marriage a secret until June as in those days, no married teacher was allowed to teach. She taught three years.

They started their marriage in the thirties, which was the depression and drought years, but by being persistent they came through.

They lived on the farm owned by Charles Retzlaff for twenty-three years, which was located just west of the Zion Methodist Church. Then they bought the Hans Friedrichsen place and lived there thirteen years. They retired and built a new home in Archer in 1965. Larry and family live on the home place.

They were blessed with one son, Larry. He married Arneda Michalski and they have three daughters, Tami, Shelly, and Joni, and one son, Corby.

John Goerl died January 14, 1958 at Central City, and Hannah Goerl died August 2, 1936 at Archer. They are buried at Pierce Chapel.

Albert Suck died July 26, 1959, and Martha Suck died February 8, 1952. They are buried at the Zion Methodist Church Cemetery of Archer. *Submitted by Esther Goerl*

JOHN C. GORIN FAMILY

John Curran Gorin and his wife, Mildred Jane Boyd Gorin, their two small children, Robert and Susan, migrated with Mildred's parents, Robert W. Boyd and family, to Lone Tree Precinct, Merrick County, Nebraska, in 1872.

John Curran Gorin was born July 23, 1841, at Russelville, Logan County, Kentucky. He was the youngest child of John Gorin and Elizabeth F. (Whitaker) Gorin.

On April 23, 1861, at age 19 he enrolled as a private in Company "D", 1st Regiment, Kentucky Infantry. Later he enrolled for a three year term as a member of Company 1, 11th Regiment, Tennessee Calvary. He was wounded three times during his period of service. He fought under General Stonewall Jackson and General Forrest.

He met his wife to be, Mildred Jane Boyd, while in the Confederate forces. She was born in Kingston, Tennessee, December 8, 1844. They were married at Kingston in 1864. They lived in Merrick County, Nebraska, until 1885 after which they moved to a homestead near Palisade, in Hitchcock County, Nebraska.

While they lived in Merrick County five more children were born to them; Emma, William, Beulah, Gertrude and Jenny who died in infancy.

John Gorin had a number of occupations; county assessor, insurance agent and lawyer. At Palisade he was classed as a school teacher, farmer, town marshal and when legislature was in session he had some office there.

Crop conditions were very poor in the 1880-1890's and with a large family they had a very difficult time making a living. John Hunter Gorin, their youngest child, was born while they lived on the homestead. They moved back to Marquette, Nebraska, about 1896 or 1897.

Their son John ran a restaurant in Marquette that later burned down. John C. Gorin, his wife and son John moved to Scottsbluff, Nebraska, for a few years then they returned to Marquette, Nebraska.

On July 23, 1915, Mrs. John Gorin passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Guy Barns, Doniphan, Nebraska. John C. Gorin resided with his children until his death, July 13, 1926, at the home of his son, William, in Grand Island, Nebraska. Both are buried in Richland Cemetery, Marquette, Hamilton County, Nebraska.

William Gorin was born February 5, 1874, to John and Mildred Boyd Gorin at the Boyd farm south of Central City. In 1886 he moved with his

parents and the rest of the family to Palisade, Hitchcock County, Nebraska. On Oct. 1, 1895, at Hayes Center, Nebraska, he was married to Grace Hulbert, daughter of Delos and Elizabeth Solace Hulbert, of Palisade, formerly of Stephenson County, Illinois.

Mr. Gorin farmed awhile near Palisade and he later returned with his wife and two small children, John and Mildred, to farm near Arborville, south of Polk, Nebraska. Maurice and Erma were born there.

In 1906 the family moved to Polk, Nebraska, where Mr. Gorin ran a dray line. In 1907 a daughter, Opal, was born.

In 1911 the family moved to Grand Island. Mr. Gorin entered the employ of the Dolan Fruit Company. In 1925 he established a real estate agency which he continued until illness caused him to retire in 1949.

Grace Gorin passed away March 14, 1932.

Son John passed away December 14, 1944, after several years working at Bowen Drug Company.

On December 16, 1934, Mr. Gorin married Josephine Main.

On April 22, 1950, William Gorin passed away leaving his widow (now deceased); son, Maurice (now deceased); daughters, Mildred (Mrs. Lloyd Ross) now deceased, Erma (Mrs. Louie Muller) and Opal (Mrs. George McMullen).

William and Grace Gorin are both buried in Grand Island City Cemetery. *Submitted by Mrs. Louie Muller*

THOMAS N. GOSNELL

A man's part has been played in making of Merrick County by him whose name begins this article.

Thomas N. Gosnell, son of Francis H. and Susan (Laudenslager) Gosnell was born in Baltimore County, Maryland, January 18, 1836, the youngest of ten children. Margaret (Gosnell) Fauquier was a sister. In 1837 the family moved to Troy, Ohio, where Thomas received his education and engaged in farming. In 1857 he moved to Keokuk, Iowa, then to Hancock County Illinois, where he resided until 1861. Then he enlisted in Company H, Third Iowa Cavalry, and served all through the Civil War, receiving an honorable discharge August 20, 1865 in Davenport, Iowa. The battles he engaged in were Moore's Mills, Missouri; Kirksville, Missouri; Hartsville, Missouri; Plantersville, Alabama; Selma, Alabama; Columbus, Georgia; and many minor skirmishes. He was in the Wilson Raid, which began at Gravelley Springs, Alabama, and ended in Macon, Georgia, where it was learned that General Lee had surrendered, and the War was over. After the war, Mr. Gosnell went to Louisville, Kentucky, and engaged in the ice business for four years. In 1869, he went to Vermillion County, Illinois, farming there for three years. In March, 1872, he came to Merrick County, Nebraska, homesteading 160 acres of land in Section 22, Township 13, Range 8, which remained the home place for thirty-eight years.

Thomas Gosnell and Augusta Bruno were married in 1883. Augusta Bruno was the mother of three daughters, Kate Bruno Boelts, Belle Bruno Fauquier and Mary Bruno Mueller.

Mr. and Mrs. Gosnell had four children, Susanna A., Thomas N. Jr., Frances S. (Frankie), and Annetta (Nettie). Frances Gosnell Shelton is living in Central City.

Mr. Gosnell's political faith was Democrat. He served as supervisor of the county for ten years, Justice of Peace in Prairie Creek Township eight years, and was instrumental in organizing his School District Number 28, and served as director of same for a number of years. In 1908, Mr. Gosnell was elected to the office of County Assessor.

In 1910, Mr. Gosnell retired from the farm, bought a home, and with his family moved to Central City. He spent his retiring years taking care of a few chickens, a nice garden and beautiful flowers, and keeping up on news and politics. Mrs. Gosnell died in 1925, Mr. Gosnell in 1933. They passed through all the trying experiences and hardships of frontier living and were widely and favorably known. *Submitted by Elizabeth Fauquier Mason*

PARK & DOT GRACE

William Parker "Park" Grace was the son of John McFarland and Mary Elizabeth Grace. He was born near Columbus, Ohio, in 1874. Generva Mae "Dot" was born to Richard and Maria Ellen Stokley in 1880 at Brownsville, Nebraska.

Park and Dot were married in Panama, Nebraska, on September 5, 1899. They lived in Lincoln, Nebraska; near Big Springs, Nebraska several years; and in 1905 they moved to Archer, Nebraska, where Park ran a garage and Dot ran a cream station for many years. Later, they farmed near Archer and then near Central City, Nebraska until their retirement. After their retirement, they lived in Lincoln, Nebraska, a short time and in 1958 they moved to Central City, Nebraska, where they lived until their deaths. Park died in 1960 and Dot in 1974.



Mr. and Mrs. William Parker Grace

They were known for their beautiful flower gardens, and many drove to their farm to see these. Dot was also known for her beautiful crocheting and other handiwork.

They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in September, 1949, at their home.

Dot was a fifty-nine-year member of the Eastern Star, and was a Past Matron.

They had one son, Cecil, who was born in 1903 at Douglas, Nebraska, and married Berniece Eckles in 1922. Cecil passed away in 1968.

Cecil and Berniece had two children, Donald (who married Maxine Anderson in 1950) and Darlene who married Walt Hosick (1952).

Donald and Maxine have two children, Curtis and Kelly Ann. Kelly has two children.

Darlene and Walt have three children, Carol, Janet and Nancy. Carol has three children. Janet has two children. *Submitted by Mrs. Donald Grace*

JIM GRAVES FAMILY

Jim Graves was born October 1, 1943, at the St. Francis Hospital, Grand Island, Nebraska, to Don and Clara Graves. His twin brother died shortly after birth. He has two older brothers, Ray and Gene, and an older sister, Pat (Mrs. Tom Spires). The family lived on three different farms on Prairie Island. He attended the Clarks Public Schools and graduated from there in 1962. Jim then began working for the State of Nebraska Department of Roads.

I, Kathy Gregg, was born June 18, 1946, at the St. Francis Hospital to Bill and Arnetta Gregg. I have two younger sisters, Gail (Mrs. Stan Ferris) and Jeanne (Mrs. Dave Johnson). Through the years, the family lived on four farms northeast of Central City, Nebraska. I attended school at District #21, District #33, and the Central City High School. I graduated in 1964, and worked as a secretary for Phares & Torpin.

Jim and I were married on June 27, 1964, at the Pierce Chapel Methodist Church. We made our first home on Prairie Island and lived there one and one-half years. Then we moved to a farm house five miles east of Central City. At this time, we started our family with a daughter, LeAnn Jean, born June 21, 1966, at the Litzenburg Memorial County Hospital, Central City, Nebraska. Then a second daughter, Shelli Rae, was born September 21, 1967, at the same hospital. In December of 1967, we moved to an acreage four miles east of Central City that we had purchased.

Jim and I worked into the hog business about a year later. We moved in and remodeled buildings, gradually increasing our production throughout the years. We still farrow sows and sell Farmers Hybrid feeder pigs.

Jim worked for the State of Nebraska Department of Roads from the fall of 1962 until July of 1973. He then accepted a job as the Merrick County Highway Superintendent. He received his land surveyor's license in February, 1980, and was then appointed the Merrick County Surveyor. In 1981, Jim served as president of the Nebraska County Highway Superintendents, County Engineers and County Surveyors.

LeAnn and Shelli attend the Central City Public Schools. They have been involved in many activities each year, both receiving the Achievement Award the 1979-1980 school year. The girls have been active in 4-H for several years.

We are all members of the Central City United Methodist Church. Jim is a member of the Clarks Lions Club and the Merrick County Pork Producers. I am a member of the Happy Homemakers Extension Club and the Merrick County Porkettes.

We enjoy living in the country and doing things together as a family. *Submitted by Kathy (Gregg) Graves*

JOSEPH & SUSAN GRAY

Joseph and Susan (Everett) Gray settled in Merrick County in the early 1870's six miles northeast of Central City, Nebraska. They raised six boys and two girls: Will, Dwaine, Clara, James, Joseph, George, John and Alice. Joseph was my dad.

In the year of 1878 a tornado struck our area. Grandmother Gray took her children to the grove of trees where they held hands around a large tree and were saved from the storm that took all the farm buildings. Two cows were killed and a horse was carried into the air but was saved. The tornado of May 2, 1928, fifty years later, followed this same pattern, destroying farm buildings in its path along the north side of the Platte River. This storm raged for thirty miles to Columbus, Nebraska. *Submitted by: Donald Gray*

GEORGE GREEN FAMILY

George Jefferson Green, born Jan. 16, 1867, in Saunders County, Nebraska, wife Helen Sophia (Nieman) Green, born June 14, 1872, at Schuyler, Nebraska, four children: George F., Walter A.,



George Green Family
Back l-r — Walter, Clarence, George. **Front** — Father, Carrie, Mother.

Clarence H., and Carrie came to Merrick County in August 1911 from farming at Schuyler, Nebraska. They moved to Chapman by train. Walter rode in box-car with two horses, two cows, twenty chickens, baled hay, furniture and machinery.

They lived in Chapman in a house now owned by Donald Parker family till February, then moved to a farm they purchased west of the Janky farm northwest of Chapman.

After 16 years of farming, they retired to Central City. George J. passed away May 4, 1931. Helen passed away October 20, 1957 at age 85.

George F. served in World War I. He is a member of the Baptist Church and Friendship Lodge No. 239 AF &AM of Chapman. He married Anna Frank and they celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1969. They had two children, Margaret Kortum and Claude. Both reside in the community. George farmed near Chapman until retiring in 1959. George, age ninety, is the oldest male resident in Chapman.

George and Walter had been on a basketball team in Schuyler. They started the game in Chapman on the playground across from school.

At the age of fifteen, George F. and his grandfather James, made a covered wagon trip from Schuyler, Nebraska to Thermapolis, Wyoming. They sold the wagon, team and supplies, returning home by train after two months.

Walter married Bertha Husman. They had one daughter, Betty Jane Reisener, of Clarks, Nebraska. Bertha passed away in 1962. Walter farmed west of Chapman for forty-four years. He is a member of Sons of Herman and Methodist Church of Chapman. He retired to Clarks for eleven years. He continued driving to farm and helping with farm work for several years. At age eighty-eight, he is now a resident of Bethesda Care in Central City.

Walter and Clarence played the accordion and violin with Frank Janky and "Shorty" McPherson for barn dances in the community.

Clarence married Maude Reeves and they had one son, Donald, who farms west of Central City. Maude passed away in 1929. In 1942 Clarence married Ruth Wyman. They resided in Central City. Clarence farmed, worked for Knight Construction of Chapman, Bishops Hardware and Woody's of Central City. At the time of his death, September 6, 1970, he was working for Osborn Plumbing. He was a Past Master of Friendship Lodge No 239 AF &AM of Chapman. Also a member of First Christian Church of Central City.

Carrie married Leon Mestl. They have one son, Dale, who lives in Seattle, Washington. They farmed in the Archer community and later moved to Central City. Leon became a contractor and was one of the "Lone Tree Builders." He built over sixty homes in Central City besides many more in the surrounding vicinity. They celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1977. *Submitted by Margaret Kortum and Betty Reisener*

JAMES GREEN
PLUM CREEK MASSACRE

James Green was born June 16, 1844, his wife Elizabeth (Garrett) Green, June 4, 1845 at Schuyler, Nebraska. They came to Merrick County around 1912. They purchased a farm near Central City, later retiring in town. James passed away in 1924 and Elizabeth in 1930. They were the grandparents of George Green of Chapman, Walter Green of Clarks, Clarence Green and Carrie Mestl of Central City.

STORY WRITTEN BY JAMES GREEN

In 1862, brother Sid Green and I hauled freight from Omaha to Denver, three round trips in eleven months by "Oxmobile," 3600 miles.

Getting married in July, 1864, loading traps and possessions in wagon, we started across the plains west, planning our future home along the foot of the Rocky Mountains. Camping at Fort Kearney, amid rumors of Indians, we proceeded to Cottonwood Springs, the present Fort McPherson, and made camp. As Elizabeth sat on the wagon tongue, nine of the biggest, blackest, war-painted Indians appeared and raised their bids from one to four ponies for her. Saved by approaching cavalry troops, relating stories of killings, taking women prisoners, and burning wagons along the trail. Turning our oxen around, we headed east, making camp that night at the "Old Soddie," a deserted ranch. We were joined by a mule train headed west, owned by Frank Morton of Sidney, Iowa. They camped across road one hundred yards from us. Not recognizing Mrs. Morton as an old school mate and chum of my wife, we broke camp early and made a "breakfast drive," a habit of ours. We stopped at ten o'clock for breakfast. A passing stagecoach driver shouted we better move on as they passed several dead people aways back. We drove on to the seventeen mile point, seventeen miles from Kearney. While camping, a troup of cavalry came, asking where we camped last night. I told him at the old soddy. He said at that place there were twelve people killed, one woman taken prisoner, mules run off, and wagons burned last night. It's a fact the people killed in that raid were the same people we camped near the night before. Our early departure was the only reason we escaped that raid known as the Plum Creek Massacre.

We later learned Mrs. Morton was a prisoner for five months of the Indians. Being rescued by friendly Indians, she was taken to Denver, where she found friends.

As we continued east, passing a ranch owned by a German called "Dutch Smith," leaving for Kearney with his wife, we later learned the same band of Indians followed the trail to the Smith place, killed the hired man, run off his stock, and burned his buildings. Whether these different escapes just happened, or were the hand of providence guiding us, I'll never understand.

When we arrived back to our old home and starting point, we concluded Nebraska was good enough for us.

We have two sons, thirteen grandchildren, five great grandchildren, all born in Nebraska, and all living in the state today, without a death in the family for forty-six years. *Submitted by Margaret Kortum and Betty Reisener*

ARTHUR ANSON GREGG

Arthur Anson Gregg, son of Ellis "Frank" Gregg and Eva Matella Halsey was born on February 26, 1891, three miles north of Archer in a sod house. He attended Gardner School (District #23) and Nebraska Central College.

Arthur married Dorothy Catherine Dexter, who was born near Clarks on May 9, 1897. She was the daughter of Hirum Marcus Dexter (born August 8, 1854 in Pennsylvania) and Katherine Amanda James (born December 23, 1863, in Maryland) who were married August 3, 1882, at Columbus, Nebraska. Hirum was a cowboy and farmer; Katherine taught school in Silver Creek.

Dorothy and Arthur corresponded while she taught school in Mile City, Montana. While teaching at Pleasant Hill and Mead, she was known as a remarkably efficient teacher loved by her pupils.



Arthur A. and Dorothy Dexter Gregg

Their marriage on June 24, 1920, was solemnized at her parent's country home on the lawn. Following the garden wedding, Dorothy passed souvenir cakes wrapped in white tissue paper and tied with pink ribbon, while Arthur passed cigars to the men. The honeymoon was in Estes Park.

They farmed nine miles north and two miles east of Central City; Frank Gregg gave each of his children a farmstead. Three children were born: Betty Katherine (August 12, 1921), Billie Arthur (August 28, 1924), and Lora Jean (July 18, 1926).

On December 4, 1927, a terrible tragedy occurred. Dorothy had been under medical care for a painful, infected ear for several months. On this Sunday Dorothy died from lysol self administered. It was realized that a mind committed to the happiness and comfort of husband, children, and loved ones failed suddenly; the joy of living was supplemented by a desire to die and to take her children with her. She gave the children Hinkle pills, which contained poison. The children, although very ill, responded to treatment. Several sources have told me that a cup of purulent material drained out of the infected ear after her death.

People refer to Dorothy as a wonderful, vivacious person; one who was noncritical, cheerful, and loved people. My dad would relate fondly his only memory of his mother: gathering eggs with her.

Dorothy was a member of the Pierce Chapel (1911) and Clarks (1926) Methodist Churches. She was a member of the Eastern Star lodge at Clarks. Following the home funeral, burial was at the Pierce Chapel Cemetery.

After her death, Frank and Eva Gregg returned to the farm to help raise the children. Arthur continued to farm the eighty acres and raise the children.

Arthur loved nature, fishing, grandchildren, checkers, and traveling to the west coast to visit his daughters. He farmed with his son until retirement. "Art" really enjoyed the fellowship of a good card game; his home was the community site for card games. His card buddies provided lots of happiness for him.

On March 3, 1964, his son died. This devastated Art. On March 12, 1964, he died of a heart attack. The Reverend Clyde Wells officiated at the funeral and burial at Pierce Chapel. *Submitted by Gail Gregg Ferris*

BILL GREGG FAMILY

Billie Arthur Gregg was born in Mead Township Merrick County to Arthur and Dorothy Dexter Gregg on August 28, 1924. When Bill was three years, his mother was dead. Frank and Eva Gregg helped raise him. Bill fondly would relate gathering eggs with his mother; that's all he could remember of her. He attended District #33 for his elementary education; he skipped one grade. He graduated from Central City High School at 16 years.

In February 1943 Bill went to the service. He was with an Armored Division; he usually drove a tank carrier in England. On July 30, 1944, he was accidently shot by a buddy cleaning his gun. He was given a medical discharge and received the purple heart. He remained in an English hospital until October 1 and was then shipped back to the States. He was in hospitals in the Carolinas, Kansas, and Colorado for about a year.

Bill Gregg married "Arnetta" Reeb, a red head, on May 13, 1945. Arnetta was born October 6, 1926, in Polk County to George and Edna Reeb. She was delivered in the home by a negro physician, Dr. Flippin. Her education through tenth grade was received at Riverside Country School. One day she got her hands slapped with a ruler for playing around the boys toilet! She graduated from Clarks High School in 1944 at seventeen years. Following graduation she lived with Clarence and Katherine Reitz in Holdrege for one year and worked for the Rural Public Power District for a starting wage of $85/month.

Bill and Arnetta were married at the Polk County, Fairview Methodist parsonage. Lake Erickson was their honeymoon site. Three red headed daughters were born to this union: Katherine Ann (June 18, 1946), Gail Renae (January 4, 1948), and



Bill Gregg Family — 1954
Bill, Jeanne, Gail, Kathy, Arnetta

Jeanne Laree (February 12, 1949).

Bill rented land and farmed with his dad. In November 1952 they purchased their first farmstead twelve miles northeast of Central City. In December 1969 their new home was built; it was erected on the land Bill's grandpa, Frank, purchased eleven miles northeast of Central City.

We worked and played together as a family. Every year we took a trip. We enjoyed boating, swimming, water skiing, camping, skating, and playing cards.

Bill and Arnetta were members of Pierce Chapel Methodist Church, and Eastern Star. Bill enjoyed Masonic lodge, and hunting along the river. He was a member of the American Legion.

Bill met an untimely death on March 3, 1964. He had been ill since April 1963. A doctor treated him for an ulcer while actually his appendix had ruptured. All the complications due to infection were more than his heart could tolerate. He died of a heart attack at thirty-nine years. He is buried at Pierce Chapel Cemetery.

My dad loved the country, nature, and his fellow man. He was very family oriented and a "super dad." His death immobilized our family. My mom went to work at the ASCS to occupy her time. Later, she married Charles Olin Little. *Submitted by Gail Gregg Ferris*

ELLIS "FRANK" GREGG

Ellis "Frank" Gregg was the son of James Kerr Gregg and Alice Armstrong. He was born in Carmichaels, Pennsylvania, September 19, 1865. He received his education at Carmichaels and Green's Academy, after which he taught for a time before coming to Nebraska.

Around 1886 he came to Merrick County and started at once working on the Pawnee Ranch, where he later became foreman. The pioneer resident taught school at the Mead, Scudder (District #33), and Adams rural schools. He was teaching at Mead at the time of the great blizzard of 1888, when he succeeded in taking his students to safety to the Brown and Newcomer homes.

He was united in marriage to Eva Matella Halsey on March 11, 1888. They went to the home of Reverend J.M. Dressler, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Fairview Church. Reverend Dressler performed the ceremony by the roadside as the spirited team would not stand still. So this young couple was married in the sleigh.

Eva was the daughter of Ferdinand and Loriana Harper Halsey who were married January 28, 1866, at Pomeroy, Meigs, Ohio. She was one of eight children born in Mudsock, Ohio, on December 15, 1866. She lived in her native birthplace until 1878 at which time the Halsey family moved to a homestead three miles north of Archer, Nebraska. She grew to young womanhood and received her early training in the Archer vicinity.

Frank and Eva began housekeeping at the Pawnee Ranch. In 1894 they moved to the original Halsey homestead three miles north of Archer. There were six children born to this union: James "Stanley" (December 18, 1888), Arthur Anson (February 26, 1891), Norval Armstrong (April 19, 1893), Alice Margaret (April 1, 1895), George Dale (July 1, 1899), and Lora Isabel (September 7, 1901).

In 1910 he purchased a farm nine miles north and two miles east of Central City. In 1916 they moved to Central City. During that time Frank was engaged in the real estate and insurance business with L.C. Staats. Following their daughter-in-laws death, they returned to the farm northeast of Central City until their deaths. In 1938 they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Frank was a great fisherman. In his later years he and Eva spent many happy months at their cabin at Lake Erickson. He was a member of the K. of P. and the Masonic lodges. When quite young, Frank united with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Carmichaels; later he transferred to the Central City Presbyterian Church.

Eva was a member of the Presbyterian Church of Central City, the Pythian Sisters, and a Charter Member of the Women's Relief Corps of Central City.

Frank died on February 23, 1943, and Eva on September 13, 1951. The Reverend Thomas Barton officiated at both funerals. Both are buried at the Pierce Chapel Cemetery.

I still have a mental picture of my great grandma on the farm in her rocking chair with one of we three girls on her lap. *Submitted by Gail Gregg Ferris*

E. FRANKLIN GREGG FAMILY



E. Franklin and Eva Gregg

My grandfather, Frank Gregg, came to Merrick County in 1886, when twenty-one years old, and began working on the Pawnee Ranch. He later taught school at the Mead, Scudder, and Adams rural schools, and was teaching at Mead at the time of the great blizzard of 1888. Frank and his wife, Eva, were married 11 March 1888, in a bronco-driven sleigh, reciting their vows as the sleigh circled the yard of their minister, Reverend J. Dressler. They set up housekeeping on the Pawnee Ranch, north of Central City. In 1894 they purchased the timber claim of her parents (Ferdinand and Lorainia Harper Halsey), three miles north of Archer. In 1910, they moved to the family home on the farm in Mead Township. In 1916 they moved into Central City proper, where Mr. Gregg engaged in real estate and insurance business. Following this, they returned to their Mead home, where they remained for the rest of their lives.

Eva Halsey was born 15 December 1866, Pomeroy, Ohio and died 13 September 1951, at Central City. She moved with her parents and three brothers (Willard, Dustin and B.W.) to a farm near Ft. Madison, Iowa, in 1876. In 1878, after illness with "ague" they decided to move to Nebraska. In preparation they dried fruits, saved seeds, and gathered nuts. Then her father and a neighbor drove through with teams and wagons which were loaded with their household goods. Later, Eva, her mother, and brothers came by train to Central City. They shared a two-room sod house (where Fred Marsh lived later) with another family, until they built their own sod house.

Ellis Fanklin Gregg was born 19 September 1865, in Greene County, Pennsylvania, where he received his education. His father was James K. Gregg (wife Mary Alice Armstrong) who served in the Civil War; and his great-grandfather, Richard Gregg, served in the Revolutionary War. I have traced the Gregg lineage back to the early 1600's in Scotland. They descend from the MacGregor Clan. About 1682, the immigrant ancestor followed William Penn from Ireland to settle in Delaware.

The children of Frank and Eva were: Stanley, born 18 December 1888 . . . died 25 February 1969, married Veola Madison; Arthur, born 26 February 1891 . . . died 12 March 1964, married Dorothy Dexter; Norval, born 19 April 1893 . . . died 21 April 1970, married Ilda Osterman; Alice, born 1 April 1895, married John Johnston; George, born 1 July 1899 . . . died 15 April 1966, married Wilma Desch; and Lora, born 7 September 1901, married Roy Dunovan. Lora and Alice reside today in Central City. *Submitted by Georgene Gregg Hall*

JAMES KERR GREGG

James Kerr Gregg was born on February 12, 1837, near Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. The Gregg family supposedly originated from Scotland where their name was McGregor. I am unsure of the spelling.

He was one of eleven children born in the home of Alfred and Mary Kerr Gregg, the latter a native of Taylorstown, Washington County, Pennsylvania. Mary Kerr Gregg lived a long and useful life, passing away in her ninety-fourth year.

At the age of fourteen he confessed Christ and united with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. His place in the church was seldom vacant. He was a member of the Men's Bible Class.

James Kerr Gregg was a well known farmer of Greene County in Cumberland Township. He had a surface coal mine on their land, also. In 1861 he marched in the Civil War as a sergeant in Company F. 1st. Pa. Reserves Volunteer Cavalry. In one engagement he was wounded in the arm by a fragment of shell. This was an injury from which he suffered all his life.

He was married twice. His first wife, to whom he was united in marriage December 21, 1864, was Alice Armstrong. Her death occurred on April 27, ?. She was a descendent of John Armstrong, who was a ruling elder in the New Providence Church, known as the Glades, around the early 1800's. To this union were born five children: Ellis "Frank," Jesse A., Charles, Anson N., and Mary (Mrs. G.D. Murdock).

His second wife, whom he married on October 15, 1887, was Isabella Horner. She was a descendent of the hardy pioneers, being a granddaughter of Felix Hughs.

James Kerr Gregg was a kind father and a faithful husband. He retired from the farm around 1900 and moved to Carmichaels where he died on September 10, 1911, at seventy-four years of age. The cause of death was acute indigestion, from which he suffered a few days. Memorial services were held on September 13, 1911, in the C.P. Church, conducted by his pastor, The Reverend John W. MacPhail, assisted by the Reverend J.P. Kumber of the New Providence Presbyterian Church and The Reverend John King of the M.E. Church. He was laid to rest in the Larual Point Cemetery nearby.

Some of his brothers and sisters were: Mrs. Eliza Greenlee of Illinois, Mrs. Sarah Flenniken of Carmichaels, Mrs. Ruth Rogers and Aaron Gregg of Nebraska, Ellis Gregg of Nebraska, and William Gregg of Uniontown, Pennsylvania. *Submitted by Gail Gregg Ferris*

DALE GRESS FAMILY

There is a place in Merrick County north and east of Palmer known as the Loup Valley neighborhood, which we are all proud to call our own. We, Dale and LaVonne Gress live here. Dale, son of Milo and Anna Pearl Darling Gress was born at Belgrade, Nebraska. The family lived in Nance county until 1923 when they moved to a farm in the Loup Valley. Dale, the youngest, was then in the fourth grade. He had one brother Stanley, now of Clarks, Nebraska. He had two sisters Hattie, now Mrs. Wilfred Andersen of Seattle, Washington and Ida, Mrs. George Christensen of Lincoln, Nebraska. His folk's purpose in moving was so the two older ones could attend high school at District #31. This was a rural



Dale Gress Family — May 1974

high school at the time which had all but the 12th grade. In those days it was a problem to get students to a school in town.

My parents were Frank and Mary Evelyn Adams Wymer. They lived on the farm where we now live and that was where I was born. I have one brother Wayne Wymer of Springfield, Oregon. My only sister Onilee, Mrs. Leroy Newlon lives in Palmer, Nebraska.

Dale and I lived after our marriage on a farm near Archer, Nebraska. In 1953 we moved back here to Loup Valley where we now reside. We have three sons: Alvin of Sacramento, California, Keith, of Kearney, Nebraska and Eugene of Palmer. We also have three daughters: Darlene, Mrs. Mike Ough of Kenesaw, Nebraska, Linda, Mrs. Kenneth Reed of Silver Creek, Nebraska, and Lora, Mrs. Roger Miller of Sutton, Nebraska. We have five grandchildren.

It was a busy life and all helped with the various chores and farm work. While none of them have to milk or tend to chickens now I don't think they will ever forget how. School and church activities kept all busy. Our goal was to help each child help themselves get a good education. All graduated from Palmer High School. Alvin graduated with an Arts and Science degree from the University of Nebraska and then got his law degree from Stanford University in California. Keith got his Industrial arts degree from Kearney State where later he got his Master's. Eugene graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in Computer Science. Darlene, Linda, and Lora were all graduates of Kearney State and were teachers.

Dale's hobby is working with wood and he enjoys making articles for relatives and friends. Doll houses for his granddaughters were special. He has made different things for our home and many have a special meaning as they were made from trees that grew on our place. *Submitted by LaVonne Gress*

MILO GRESS FAMILY

My parents were Milo Clark Gress (1878-1951) born at Tablerock, Nebraska, and Anna Pearl Darling (1887-1977), born near Belgrade. They were married in 1905, farmed and operated a threshing machine in Boone County, where Stanley (1906) and I (1908) were born. In 1911 we moved near Belgrade where Ida (1911) and Dale (1914) were born. In 1918, we moved to a farm near Genoa and then to the LeMaster place near Palmer in 1920. We moved to the Cole Place in Merrick County in 1923 to attend District #31 High School. We all graduated from Palmer High School.

My paternal grandparents were born in Pennsylvania, Michael Jacob Gress (1837-1929). He was present when President Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address. Ida V. Clark (1845-1900) was reared by foster parents. They were married in Pennsylvania and came west in 1860 to Tablerock, Nebraska, later moving to Fullerton where Grandpa ran the ferry until the bridge was built. Their five children were Charlotte, Lawrence, Frank, Milo and Eva.

My maternal grandparents were John James Darling (1847-1921) and Roxanna Eddy (1847-1911). Both were born in New York State. They came west in 1880 to a farm near Belgrade. Three children died when small. The others were Herbert, Frank, John, Carrie, Hattie and Anna.

Ida and I attended Kearney State Teachers College and taught in rural schools. Wilfred Andersen of Kearney and I were married in 1930, and settled on a farm near Broadwater. Between high-cost irrigation and grasshoppers, we stayed one year. We moved to Laramie, Wyoming, to attend the University. In 1933, we moved to Denver where Wilfred completed his law course at the Westminister Law School. I took commercial work at the Denver Opportunity School.

1934 was an eventful year. Stanley and Pearl Christensen were married in February; Ida and George Christensen (1900-1973) were married in June. Wilfred was admitted to the Nebraska Bar.

Ida and George moved to Lincoln where George worked for the Nebraska Highway Department for thirty-five years. Ida worked for Elgin Watch Company and Dorseys Laboratories, is now retired, and enjoys her home, flowers and crafts.



Milo Gress Family — **Front l-r** — Ida, Milo, Anna. **Back** — Stanley, Hattie, Dale.

In 1935 we moved to Seattle, Washington. Wilfred was admitted to the Washington Bar in 1937 and set up his law practice in Seattle. We were active members in the Danish Lodges. I worked as an inspector for Boeing Company from 1942-1945. In 1947 we moved to Coulee City where we ran our motel, practiced law, was on the school board, and I was Secretary for the Grant County Women's Republican Club. In 1956 we sold the motel and moved to Cheney where I obtained my BA Degree. I graduated in August, and taught in the Kettle Falls High School. I gave up teaching when we moved to our ranch near Colville. In 1976, we moved to Edmonds and retired in 1978.

After farming 45 years, Stanley retired and moved to Clarks. We have enjoyed his nice family: Carolyn (1946-1955), Marlene (1948-1955), Galen, Maynard, Wayne, Lyle, Calvin and Lila. All graduated from the Hordville High School and are living and working in that vicinity. *Submitted by Hattie Gress Andersen*

GRIEVE

Henry W. Grieve was born at Racine, Wisconsin, March 7, 1859, the son of Henry and Anna Grieve. Jennie Chantry was born at Casey, Iowa, January 26, 1863, to Samuel B. Chantry and Sarah Elizabeth Coleman. They were married at Casey December 22, 1881. It is not known how the Grieve family from Racine, Wisconsin, came to Casey, Iowa. It is assumed because Henry, Sr., was a Lay-Minister for the Lutheran Church. His Bible and many of his sermons are still family possessions.

Henry and Jennie immediately began farming near Adair, Iowa. This is where two of their children were born, Carl Bernard in 1882 and Clifford Allen in 1885. After a few years there, they went to Casey, Iowa, where their only daughter, Bertha Lucille, was born in 1889.

From there they went to Mount Vernon, South Dakota, to homestead. After seven years of drought, they were forced to leave there. It was here that their two younger sons were born, Thomas Clair in 1894 and Robert Clark in 1896. They then returned to Casey for a time.

In 1904, they came to Central City where Henry entered the implement business with his two oldest sons, while the younger children attended the Central City Public Schools. They immediately affiliated with the Friends Church, and were lifelong active members. Jennie Grieve was president of the Friends College Auxiliary many years. This auxiliary of dedicated church women did quilting in the Grieve home every Thursday to keep up the repairs and furnishings for Nebraska Central College, an affiliate of the Friends Church. Henry stayed in the implement business until the dry years, when farmers were unable to pay for their needed equipment.

In 1918, he went to work in the baggage department for the Union Pacific. There he stayed until his retirement when he reached the age of seventy. He was an ardent horseshoe player, spending a great deal of his retirement years at the game.

Henry and Jennie celebrated their fiftieth Anniversary in 1931. He and his wife spent their reclining winters in California with their children. Jennie died October 1, 1940, at Central City. Henry died April 14, 1950 in California at the age of 91.

Their two young sons, Clair and Clark, continued their education in the Central City Public Schools and at Nebraska Central College. It is noted they were two of the best athletes to have ever graduated from the Central City Schools. Clark continued his interest in sports, taking part in football, basketball, baseball and later golf. The four oldest Grieve children are buried in California. Henry, Jennie, and son Clark are buried at Central City. *Submitted by Mrs. Clark Grieve*

ROBERT CLARK GRIEVE

Robert Clark Grieve was born near Mt. Vernon, South Dakota, December 21, 1896, the son of Henry W. and Jennie C. Grieve. Besides his parents he had three brothers and one sister, namely — Carl Bernard, Clifford Allen, Thomas Clair and Bertha Lucille.

Clark started school in a rural district there until his family moved to Casey, Iowa, before coming to Central City in 1904. While in C.C.H.S. he was active in athletics and took part in practically all the class and school plays. After graduation from high school he attended Nebraska Central College two years before going into the Army. After returning from the Army he started work with the Railway Express Agency June 23, 1919, at Central City holding the title of Agent. On June 7, 1922, he married Edith Young at her parents home in Clarks, and made their home in Central City until he was transferred to Sidney, December 29, 1935. Athletics was his love and outstanding field of accomplishment. Probably the best all around athlete ever to graduate from C.C.H.S. and when one considers his development and accomplishments he was easily the outstanding athlete of Central City.

He became a star in football, basketball, baseball and later golf. In golf he again forged to the front. He began by winning the championship of the Central City Club and won numerous tournaments here and at Sidney. The pride of his golfing career was the State Championship of the American Legion won in the tournament at Grand Island in the summer of 1934. He was seven times Golf Champion of the Sidney Country Club during his residence there. Clark was most generous in his success helping those in need who came his way. He was a loyal member of the famous Merrick County American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps from its inception. He was a 56 year member of the American Legion, a member of the Masonic Lodge and the York Rite of Free Masonry, and life long member of the Friends Church at Central City.

In 1947 he resigned from the Express Company and entered business for himself, operating the Sidney Laundry until he had a massive coronary in 1962. He was never again able to enter competition in athletics but continued playing golf. In his retirement he enjoyed golf and traveling. After a short illness he passed away August 20, 1978, and was buried in the Central City Cemetery with full military honors by the American Legion. Thus ended a full and active career. *Submitted by Wife — Mrs. Clark Grieve*

RICKY G. GRIGSBY

Ricky Grigsby, youngest son of Robert and Raymona Page Grigsby, was born at Central City, Nebraska, August 1, 1962. He has two older brothers, Steven and Ronald, and also a sister, Peggy. They are the fifth generation to call Central City and Merrick County home. Home for the Grigsbys was and is just north of Nebraska Christian High School. Rick started school in 1967 in Central City Public Schools because District #8 burned in May before he started school in the fall. The Grigsby family rode the school bus driven by their mom from 1968 until their graduation.

When Rick was in the eighth grade, a group of his classmates, with sponsors, flew to Washington, D.C. for a great sightseeing tour. The next year, 1976, he joined his parents and other farmers on a seed corn sponsored flight to Nashville, Tennessee. They visited Grand Ole' Opry and Jack Daniels Distillery among other places of interest.

While in school, Rick went out for wrestling and football, either as a student manager or as an athlete. In March of 1980, Rick played the part of Tom Bones in the play, "Mr. Crane." This was a musical comedy, in which Rick, a large fellow, was carried off-stage by a much smaller fellow, Tim Mommens. A time for their classmates to remember for a long time. A very good musical!

After graduation from Central City, Nebraska, High School in 1980, Rick helped on the family farm and custom work as he had done while growing up. Early in 1981, he enjoyed a ski trip to Colorado with friends, then back home to new employment with Paddock Siding Farm Service. Rick is a member of the United Methodist Church in Central City, Nebraska. *Submitted by Raymona Grigsby*

ROBERT GRIGSBY FAMILY

Robert, youngest of 10 children born to Ray P. and Helen Moore Grigsby of Aurora, Nebraska, married Raymona, daughter of Raymond and Lucile Campbell Page, October 15, 1950, in the Christian Church at Central City, Nebraska. Melvin Zichek was their minister and they were attended by friends, Nina Wagner and Bill Pickrel, who later married. Raymona has one brother, Paul.

Raymona was a telephone operator for Northwestern Bell for 9 years, leaving to care for her family. Bub (as many know him) served in the Army in 1952-1953, with 14 months in Korea. Our farming started with old machinery and a few acres, and a good banker, R.C. Gustafson, so Bub did odd jobs and junk-selling to keep our bills paid. Later, he did custom work such as digging basements for Lone Tree Builders who built many new homes in south Central City. Raymona was a pioneer school bus driver when Central City Schools consolidated in 1968. She drove Bus #12 for many years in the College Section before taking a route toward Chapman. Our children attended school District #8 until it burned in May of 1967. They all graduated from Central City High School.

Our children are: Steven Lee born October, 1954, Ronald Ray born June, 1957, daughter Peggy Lou born August, 1960, and Ricky Gene born August, 1962. We grew to be a busy farm family, with everyone helping at irrigation time, and most other times now that I think of it. We had lots of help from our kids' teenage friends, and what fun to have them around our dinner table. "whoever regards work as pleasure can sure have a heck of a good time in this institution. ha!"

Bob, a hard worker and a good manager, now owns a full line of the latest equipment, and we have bought good farm ground near our home place, the Lovejoy home, on Kennedy Street in the College Section. Bob and sons still do custom work, dirt excavating, snow removal and demolition of buildings, and farming.

We drove a 1937 Chevie when we were married, and have had many different vehicles, including 1948 Packards, a new 1967 Chevie pickup which Ronald still has, a Toyota pickup, a Lincoln auto and Mack dump trucks, which our grandson thinks is the greatest. Our kids had A.T.C. 90's and three-wheelers to ride for irrigating and for pleasure. Tippy was one family dog that loved to ride on the 'THINGS," as we called them. Lady and Pudge were family pets also.



Robert Grigsby Family — 1979

Peggy married Brad Wells in 1976. They have given us three nice grandchildren. Ronald married Marla Johnson in April, 1979. We all live near the Nebraska Christian High School. This story would not be complete until we tell of Robert having a total left hip replacement in January of this year, 1981. *Submitted by Raymona Grigsby*

RONALD & MARLA GRIGSBY

Ronald Ray Grigsby and Marla Kay Johnson were married on a beautiful spring day, April 14, 1979, at the United Methodist Church in Central City by Rev. Denny Silk. Our parents are Robert L. and Raymona Page Grigsby and Carl Richard and Nancy Fullington Johnson.

Ron and I make our home one-fourth mile south of Nebraska Christian High School.

Ron has lived in Merrick County all of his life. He was born in Aurora on June 10, 1957. I was born in Manhattan, Kansas on August 31, 1960 and moved to Central City when I was four years old.

Ron began his education at District #8 where he attended until it burned in 1967. He then finished his education at Central City, graduating from high school in 1975. Ron farms with his dad and brothers and when they are not doing field work, they do custom excavation work for area residents. Ron rents farm ground from Mrs. Howard Nielsen which was formerly the Teschmacher Farm and the birthplace of his grandfather, Raymond Page, in 1903.



Ronald and Marla Grigsby

Ron enjoys hunting and fishing. He has played softball for four years and every year looks forward to the County fair so he and his friends can prepare for and compete in the demolition derby.

All of my school years were spent in the Central City school system. Second thru fourth grades were spent at North Ward. I have very fond memories of these years as North Ward was a smaller school and recess was spent across the street at North Park! I also enjoyed the bus ride across town to the high school each day for lunch.

My summers were filled with taking and teaching swimming lessons. I was also a member of the swim team along with my three brothers and many friends. We had a great deal of fun traveling to other towns to compete and inviting other teams to Central City.

Part of the summer was always put aside for a family vacation. We did a lot of traveling and camping together. One trip to South Dakota was especially memorable because I broke my arm!

In high school I enjoyed being a member of the swing choir, Nominis. We performed at hospitals and nursing homes in the area, along with school music programs.

After graduating from Central City High School in 1978, I attended the Grand Island School of Business from which I graduated on March 21, 1980.

In April 1980, I was employed as a Census Enumerator for the 1980 Federal Census. This was a very interesting job. I have been recently employed at the Bethesda Care Center where I work in the Dietary Department.

Some of my hobbies include music, cooking, macrame, sewing and bowling.

Ron and I also have a love for animals. We each had favorites as we were growing up. Mine were Chico, a Siamese cat that lived to be sixteen years old, and Harrigan, an Irish Setter. Ron's was a dog named Tip which he had for about eight years. We now have two cats in our home and we enjoy their company.

We are happy to make our home where the land is good and the people are grand. *Written by Marla Johnson Grigsby*

STEVEN L. GRIGSBY

Steven Grigsby was born October 10, 1954, the first child of Robert and Raymona Page Grigsby. His parents were renting a home and a few acres in southwest Central City at the time. The home has since been moved to 1910-11 St. In its place was built a new home for Nortons. Our corn field was replaced by a large bowling alley. Many of the neighboring fields were replaced by new homes of Central City. The Grigsby family moved to the Lovejoy acreage on the College Section, which became home for all of us. Steven attended District #8 until it burned, then graduated from Central City High School. While in school he attended the FFA national convention in Kansas City. He was awarded the top crop award from FFA 3 years.

While other members of his family did custom work of many kinds, Steven prefers to stay on the farm and do the field work. In 1972, the Central Platte Valley Young Farmers hired Steven to irrigate their Green Acres project. This group was the adult part of Central City Vocational Agriculture Department.

Steven now has a home north of his parents. He has a large building where he and friends work on cars, trucks and motorcycles when not riding them. Steven has been an officer of the Mid Nebraska Corvette Club, and his 1973 Chevrolet Corvette won a first place trophy in the late custom domestic sports car division at the 1980 Model Car Show in Grand Island, Nebraska. A group of the Corvette Club also attend a convention in Colorado. In addition to the Corvette, Steven has had other very nice trucks, namely a 1973 black Chevy, a real beauty of a blue and white, El Camino, and a yellow Toyota.

Steven has been best man and taken part in many weddings but as yet is single. He loves to roller skate and has lots of friends. He is a member of the Methodist Church. He has two brothers, a sister, and two nephews and one niece.

GERALD GROSVENOR FAMILY

This is a thumbnail history of the Gerald H. Grosvenor family and it will be written in the first person, detailing briefly some highlights of my life and that of my wife, L. Berniece, and my daughter, Jeri Lynn.

Born in Hordville in 1915, my first remembrance of Merrick County is as a two- or three-year-old on a farm northeast of Central City.

I am the youngest son of the late George C. and Lovena Rose Grosvenor; one of five children, four of whom grew to adulthood in the Central City area. Three of the children are deceased; Richard Ronald, Glenda Florence Holmquist, and Reginald Clement, who died in Japanese prison camp during World War II. My sister, Velma Rose McLean, and I both live in Central City.

My wife, Berniece, is the adopted daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. L.K. Rickard of Grand Island. She was born in Houston, Missouri, went to the Rickard home when she was eight years old and is a graduate of Grand Island High School. We were married in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1939.

I started in the printing and publishing business in Central City in 1935, working seven years with Bob Rice on the old Central City Republican before going with the Omaha World-Herald in 1942. Following a two-year stint there, I spent the greater part of a year on the staff of the contractor who built the fourth bombloading line at the Ordnance Plant near Grand Island. Then, in early 1945, it was on to the West.

Thirty-two years of work in printing and publishing plants in the "West" started in Oxnard, California. It was in Oxnard that our only child, Jeri Lynn, was born in 1946. In 1947, we moved to Monrovia where I spent six years with the Monrovia News-Post.

It was a short jump from Monrovia to Mesa, Arizona, where for another six years I was business manager of the Mesa Tribune. In that general area, a year each was spent with the Sun Valley Shopper, Arizona Journal and Mesa Chamber of Commerce. We also enjoyed a year in Navajoland at Gallup, New Mexico.

The year 1961 brought an offer from the Indio Daily News in Indio, California, where we resided for the next 17 years. Most of that time, however, I spent with Paul Associates in Palm Springs, one of the fine creative printing plants in that area.

Through these years that I pursued the printed word, both Berniece and Jeri Lynn were equally busy. Berniece made use of her sewing, tailoring and decorating talents and Jeri Lynn developed her skills in fabrics and art. After graduating from Indio High School, Jeri Lynn spent two years at College of the Desert in Palm Desert. Later, she became one of the few women in California to qualify for licenses in fabric care and dry cleaning.

Highlights of the lives of all three of us have been our trips to England, Scotland and Canada. Of English heritage, we were thrilled to visit the birthplace of my grandfather, Charles Hill, in York, England; and Chester, England, where the first representative of the Grosvenor family came ashore in 1066 with William the Conqueror. Our travels have included all the Western States, half of dozen trips to Vancouver Island and, more recently, a trip to the Winnipeg, Canada area.

They say that "you can't go home," but in 1978 we decided to do just that; all three of us now residing in that charming Midwest history-steeped town called Central City, Nebraska.

JAMES STEWART GRUNTORAD

James Stewart Gruntorad was born September 18, 1950, at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Nebraska, the son of James T. and Rose Fecht Gruntorad. He graduated from Elm Creek High School, then joined the U.S. Navy. He was stationed on the U.S.S. Penta.

On December 24, 1971, he married Caralee Ann Hoback, the daughter of Newell Kenneth Hoback and Rosa Alma Marie Meyer. Caralee was born November 9, 1951, at Coolidge Hospital, Palmer, Nebraska. Caralee graduated from Grand Island Senior High School in 1970. Caralee lived on various farms around Chapman until she was ten





James Gruntorad Family **L-r** — Aimee, James, Kendra, Carolee, J. J.

years old, attending county schools. Jim and Caralee have three daughters and one son: Aimee Joe, born March 19, 1973; Kendra Ann, born December 14, 1975; James Jacob "J.J.," born August 16, 1978; and Crystal Marie, born January 20, 1981.

There is a very interesting story about Crystal's birth — there was even a newspaper article written about it. Crystal M. Gruntorad was born on the day Ronald Reagan became President of the United States which was also the day the hostages were released from Iran after being held for over a year. Early Tuesday morning Caralee thought she might be going into labor. She called her doctor and he informed her that she was just in the early stage: she could either wait a while or go check in at the hospital for peace of mind. Jim and Caralee decided it would be better to be on the safe side and check in. They woke up their three children, took them to a neighbor, and headed for the hospital. Much to their surprise, Crystal decided to be born enroute to St. Lukes Hospital, Davenport, Iowa. To this day Crystal is an independent little girl. *Submitted by Caralee Hoback Gruntorad*

LORRAINE McHARGUE GUILFORD

My life began on August 6, 1934, one mile east of Central City on the farm where my brother, Tom, lives. I was the third child of four, of Hiram and Eula Willhoft McHargue; Kenneth, Thomas, Lorraine, and Rosemary. I attended school at District #20 through eighth grade, and graduated from Central City High School with the Class of '52.

At that time I started my career with Northwestern Bell. August 23, 1953, Murry Guilford and I were married at Christ Church Episcopal. Murry was born at Marquette, Hamilton County, Nebraska, youngest of five children of Ray and Corda Guilford.

Murry was in the United States Air Force for ten years serving in the Azores, England, Germany, Texas, and California.

We have 2 children, Laura Edgerton, born May 8, 1956, Lajes Field, Azores. Steve was born June 21, 1957, Mather AFB, California.

We moved to Dallas, Texas, February, 1964, where Murry was associated with Victor Business



Murray and Lorraine Guilford

Machines and I with Southwestern Bell. His employment took us to South Bend, Indiana, and I worked with another Bell System, Indiana Bell. Two years later, we returned to Fort Worth, Texas.

Murry now has his own business, Murry's Pro Shop, retail and repair of golf equipment. I'm back with Southwestern Bell, having been with the Bell System for twenty-two years.

We have one grandson, Jason Alan Edgerton, born November 24, 1977, Landstukle AFB, Germany. Our son, Steve, is to be married June 6th, 1981, to Brenda Bratton.

We are all located in Fort Worth, Texas. *Written by Lorraine Guilford*

JOHANN HABERMANN

I was born Johann Gerhard Habermann, son of Friedrich Wilhelm Adolf Habermann and Geertie Hartog Habermann on February 26, 1886 in den Helder the Nederlands.

The city was small with a canal running through part of it, which was one of the main lines of transportation for the necessary supplies of farm products, coal from Germany and the southern part of the country. The main business for the people was fishing in the North Sea. When they came back to shore to unload their catch the fish were put into baskets and packed in ice and transported to the railway station for shipment to the larger cities.

The main place of business was the wharf owned and operated by the government and furnished employment to many people who live in the city.

We had a terrific storm in 1900 when the waves would come on top of the dikes and weakened them. My father and I went to see the damage and it was frightening.

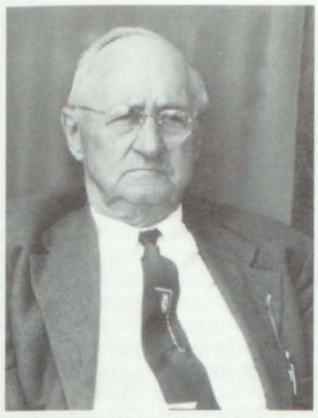
We had lightening storms in the summer and we were always awakened and were fully dressed, waiting downstairs till the storm was over. You could often see a haystack or a farm home in the country which was hit and burning. We did not have much of a fire department, it was all handpower operated.

When I was a little older I used to spend my vacations on my uncle's farm as I was a great lover of horses, which has stayed with me all my life. My aunt used to come and get me and I loved to ride a horse going to and from the field.

I was not too good in school for a reason, I cannot explain too well. My interest was more outside. I did get through elementary school and two years of high school and then tried different jobs, but I could not see any advancement anywhere. I once applied and took an examination for the mounted police in Rotterdam as a lower grade officer but could not rate high enough to get a place in the ranks. My older brother, by two years, Frits, was an excellent scholar and after his examine became a clerk in the telegraph office in Amsterdam. The post office, telegraph and telephone is all owned and operated by the government as is also now radio and television.

In 1908 I decided that I would like to go to America as I heard so much about the opportunities there. I arrived in Hoboken, New Jersey in June after nine days on the Rotterdam of the Holland-America Line, which was mine and also the ship's first crossing. I had some English in school, but I was really bewildered by what I saw. There was a person from Holland who had a hotel in Hoboken at the landing and he took me in his care. He furnished me with lunch on the train and took me on an electric street car to a railroad station, I do not know where, and I was on my way to Pella, Iowa, a Dutch speaking community. As I did not know anything about the ways here I had a tag on my coat showing my destination. I could not understand the noise of the whistle and the bell on the train as the right of way for the railroads in Holland are fenced in and all the crossings guarded and consequently there was no use for a strong whistle or a bell.

It was like being at home in Pella where I did not have the language difficulty. I decided to work on a farm operated by a cousin by marriage, who came from Holland and later went back and lives there now. The work was hard, the days long and the pay small, so I decided to try someplace else and also to get where the English language was spoken, because I eventually had to get around in the country.



Johann Habermann — 1963

I got a job on a farm in Iowa where they had children of school age and I learned from them and also from a school teacher who stopped every day to take them to school. It was not a bad place to work as the father of the children was always going some place and I do not remember ever seeing him work but I think he was well to do and could afford to hire all the work done. We had to milk the cows in the open, even in the winter time, which was not so good.

I went to work for another farmer where I got room and board and twenty dollars per month. I was laid off in the winter and went to Oskaloosa, Iowa. There I met Mr. Sheriff, a lawyer who had a farm a short way from town. On this farm he had trees which he wanted to cut down and sell in town for stove wood. He also had a team of Jenny mules. I was to use them to haul the wood to town in a sleigh as it was winter and the ground was covered with snow. The fellows on the farm told me that I would not be able to get a halter on them, but I told them that I had been handling horses for years and would not have any trouble and I did not. We took them to town and bought harnesses for them and it was the best he had. So I started to haul wood and also coal for the house. In the evening Mr. Sheriff and I sat in the basement and talked about different things and also he wanted me to go to college there, which I did and did not care for it very much. So I stayed with the mules and they would work for me. I got the idea that I wanted to go to Denver but Mr. Sheriff tried to talk me out of it saying that so many people went there for their health. I went and found out that he was right. After being unable to find a job I hired out to a farmer in the country. I arrived there and my bed was a mattress filled with corn husks. I did not like it and went back to Denver the next morning with a neighbor.

I finally got to my last dollar and spent it for a job washing dishes in a restaurant. That lasted till spring when he wanted me to wash windows. I told him that I was not hired for that and quit.

I then went to school to learn telegraphy. I hired out to the Union Pacific and they sent me to Omaha to school to learn the business of rates and routes and paid me $25 a month to learn that. I stayed there until 1912 when I went back home because every thing here was strange to me and I was lonesome. After being home for a while I did not like it out there so I came back again and stayed with the Union Pacific for thirty-eight years.

I got married in 1925 to Mayme Johnson and that ended with her death in 1938 with a cancer. That last year was terrible; she suffered a lot.

I was single then till 1947 when I got married to Frances M. Foreman and the next year I took my pension. We sold the house and bought a farm thirteen miles north of Central City. Not being a farmer I rented out the land and the neighbors farmed the land. At that time the soilbank came into being so I went there and asked if I could put my farm in the soilbank. The answer was yes and the question for how long was three to five or ten years. I told them ten years and that I would be here then. The ten years were up and instead of renting it out we sold it. We bought a house in Central City where we still live. I am not able to do very much as I am 94 years old and my legs give out.

(Mr. Habermann passed away April 13, 1981 at the age of 95.)

L.L. & HELEN HADDIX

Lawrence's father, Calvin M. Haddix was the oldest of thirteen children. His wife, Ella (Purdey) Haddix was the oldest of three children. Lawrence is the oldest of five children, also the first grandchild of each family.

Helen's parents, John F. Nielsen and Margaretha (Sievers) Nielsen, emigrated from Erfde, Schleswig Holstein, Germany to America in 1890. Helen was born June 27, 1903 in Grand Island, Nebraska. There were five older sisters and one younger brother. Helen attended School District #1 just west of Stolley Park. She walked over six miles daily attending high school and graduated in 1920. After graduation she entered the field of secretarial work.

Lawrence was born on a farm near Winside, Nebraska October 16, 1900. Because of monetary conditions in 1904 his father lost everything feeding cattle. Early in 1905 they moved to the eastern edge of Custer County, where he built a two room shed-roof soddy. Long poles served as roof rafters, with rough lumber sheathing and a thick layer of sod on top, grass side up. The walls were very smooth inside. The floor was a thick layer of yellow clay, moistened and tamped to a very hard finish. There was one door and a large window where potted plants bloomed all winter. During construction he stopped long enough to break a few acres of prairie, cut holes in the sod with a narrow spade and planted sweet corn and a vegetable garden.

Later he built a shed-roof sod barn large enough for four horses and two cows. Then before frost he dug a large cave in a clay bank where the fresh and canned vegetables, fruit and meat were stored.

Lawrence started to school in a dilapidated sod school house, which collapsed three months later during a heavy snow and was not re-built. Therefore he had no further public schooling until 1909 when we moved to a different school district. That farm had a combination dug-out and sod house. My father became ill during the move and remained in very poor health until he died in March 1915. That summer was too wet for crops to mature, forcing Mother to have a sale to pay the debts. With $800.00 and five children she moved to Grand Island, Nebraska, where odd jobs were available for all who were old enough to work.

On March 1, 1919, Lawrence started as an apprentice to learn trades he would work at until he retired.

In September 1922 he and Starr Spangenberg purchased the Martin Battery Station in Central City, Nebraska and opened for business as the Auto Specialty Shop, September 25, 1922, without a welcome or ribbon cutting. During the three months as partners Lawrence ran a road grader and picked corn during the day and did the welding and radiator repairing at night. On January 1, 1923, Lawrence became sole owner and continued for over 48 years.

Lawrence and Helen were married August 5, 1925 and she became a permanent resident of Central City. They observed their golden wedding anniversary August 10, 1975. Three daughters were born to this union, Jeanette, who died at birth, Faye Gregory lives in Garden Grove, California and Lois Bowmaster in Lincoln, Nebraska. There are four grandsons and one granddaughter.



Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence L. Haddix

Helen is a Past Worthy Matron and a fifty year member of the Eastern Star and has been a member of the Royal Neighbors since 1927. Lawrence was a Volunteer Fireman twenty-eight years, seventeen of them as Chief. He has been a Volunteer traffic officer since 1950. He served as President of the Commercial Club, served two years as City Councilman and four years as Mayor, two years as Worthy Patron of the Eastern Star, a Mason since 1927 and Worshipful Master of Lone Tree Lodge in 1941 and 1981. *Submitted by Helen and L.L. Haddix*

D.L. & IRENE HAHN

After living at Hordville, Nebraska for twenty-six years, in 1976, my husband and I, D.L. (Shorty) and Irene Nielsen Hahn, bought the home of Carl and Faye Erickson at 2224 16th Avenue and moved to Central City, Nebraska. Shorty, or Dwayne, whichever name you prefer, has been and still is manager of the Hordville Farmer's Co-op Elevator for the past thirty years.

Shorty is one of the nine children of Harvey and Hannah Erickson Hahn of the Polk-Hordville area and graduated from Polk High School in 1946. After spending two years in the army, Shorty attended Nebraska Central College for two years.

Paul and Agnes Nielsen are my parents, and my home, of course, was their farm on Prairie Island. I graduated from Central City High School in 1951.



Dwayne L. Hahn Family

On a hot August Sunday afternoon, while helping my parents stack hay, a bashful, shy, sixteen-year-old Danish girl met her future husband. Two years later on October 14, 1951, Shorty and I were married at the Fridhem Lutheran Church, Hordville, where we still enjoy our membership.

As you already know, the next twenty-six years were spent living in a home owned by the elevator at Hordville. During this time, we enjoyed raising our two children, Pauline Kay, born in 1952, and Douglas Dwayne, in 1955. Our children's activities soon became our interests, and we followed them closely. Pauline and Doug graduated from the Hordville Schools and furthered their educations, Pauline with a B.A. degree in music from the University of Nebraska and Doug became a Nebraska Wesleyan graduate with a business degree. Doug then became a stock and commodity broker for First Mid America. Pauline is a music teacher with the Las Vegas, Nevada School System. During these years, Shorty built a cabin three miles north of Hordville and most of our summer activities with relatives and friends have been, and still are, centered there.

Although Shorty and I have lived in Central City only four years, Shorty, through business, has been associated with many of the people within the Merrick County area. We look forward to the years ahead, the joy of living in our home, and of renewing old and making new friendships. *Submitted by Irene Nielsen Hahn*

GEORGENNE GREGG HALL

My parents, George and Wilma (Desch) Gregg were lifetime residents of Central City, raising two children, W. Georgenne and L. Marilyn. My father enlisted in the army, serving from June, 1918, to June, 1919, in Company B, 304th engineers and was in the Meuse-Argonne offensive battle. He returned and finished his education, then began his government employment with the post office, and was a rural mail carrier in Central City for 42 years.

My husband, James W. Hall, is Assistant Comptroller with Pacific Gas and Electric Company in San Francisco. He graduated from C.C.H.S. in 1939. I graduated in 1940 and my sister in 1941.

We have 3 children: Thomas Gregg (married Elizabeth Morris . . . they have two daughters, Jennifer and Kristine); Marilyn Jo (married Richard Embick . . . they have three children, Daniel, David and Kathleen); and David James (married Shelly Luke).

My sister, Marilyn, is married to F.M. Parker, an attorney in Kearney, Nebraska. They have 4 children: Linda (married John Clabaugh . . . one son Brent); Dustin (married Janelle Tams . . . they have three daughters, Lisa, Wendy and Amy); Georgenne and Janet who are unmarried.

The three family stories I have submitted (William S. Desch, Robert G. Baird, and E. Franklin Gregg) are interwoven, all are a part of Merrick County History. *Submitted by W. Georgenne Gregg Hall*

G.W. HALSTEAD FAMILY

My parents, George and Isadore Haskell Halstead and their three children, Burt (6), Ray (3), and Kittie (1), arrived in Merrick County from Foxburg, Pennsylvania, in 1880. They homesteaded in Mead Township, about nine miles north and four miles west of Central City. There they built a sod house and lived for some nine years. Several other sod houses were in the neighborhood, including the Larcom's, Huff's, and McCloud's. During this time, two more children were born, Carl in 1881 and Ella in 1882.

The older three went to school in District #51 as soon as it was built. They had been attending one much farther away, so were very happy about this new school. They were in school there on the day of the awful blizzard of 1888, and survived it somehow. They were not afoot, as they drove a team and wagon, picking up some neighbor children on the way, whose father, David Hanna, met them part way, which was a big help. Two teachers I recall were Clarence Huff and Emma Lucas. Younger children were welcome to visit school if they wished, and that was a real break in our lives.

We visited often among neighbors, and a few times there were sociables and spelling bees at the schoolhouse which we enjoyed. I am sure there were many hardships and privations in those years, but at my tender age I didn't know it. It may have been different from my parent's point of view, but we children never heard about it.

Our mail was very important. It was periodically delivered at a substation, "Mentzers," which was some two miles away. The man in charge was John Burgess. The "Youth's Companion" was a publication we eagerly awaited. Walking was no hardship, and I sometimes went alone to pick up what mail might come. There being not many fences made distances much shorter as we cut across, and we went barefoot in warm weather.

In March of '89 we moved east into District #21. Here we all went to school. The older boys attended when they were not needed to assist with the farm work. My youngest brother, Ward, was born in 1889.

Kittie and I went on to graduate from Central City High School at the turn of the century. After graduation, we got our teaching certificates and joined the Merrick County teaching staff. Our family moved to Minnesota in 1902, and after our schools closed, we followed them. Although the Halstead family became scattered, we have kept a "Round Robin" letter circulating to all six families for sixty-five years. I am the only one of the six left, but the families of the other five have kept on writing. It usually makes the rounds in four or five weeks, and goes to Minnesota, Utah, Oregon,



The Halstead Family — **From left** — Ward, Ella (Mrs. Ralph Severance), Carl, Kittie (Mrs. Willard Hober), Ray, Burt

Nebraska, and Washington. It has been lost or misplaced only twice.

Our parents moved to Washington in 1911, where they are both buried. *Written by Ella Halstead Severance-1976*

EMIL & ADA HAMILTON

Emil Hamilton, at the age of thirteen, came across the Atlantic, all alone, from Sweden, on a freighter, to live with his sister near Alvo, Nebraska. He received some additional education while there.

In 1899, he married Ada Klyver of Alvo. They farmed near Alvo for a few years, and their son Ralph was born in 1901. About a year later, they moved to a farm near the town of Raymond, Nebraska, where their daughter Gladys was born in 1905.

In 1911, Emil bought an unimproved farm one mile north of Thummel, or one mile south of District #50 school. This was bought at the large T.B. Hord land auction. Having put buildings on his land, the family moved in 1912. Ralph and Gladys attended grade school and rural high school at District #50. Gladys continued her high school education in Central City and graduated in 1922. She began her teaching career that fall at District #62.

Ralph was farming with his father and on some nearby land until 1925, when he married Bertha Folkerts. They moved to their home one half mile west of District #21 schoolhouse. Gladys was married at her parents home in June 1927 to William Pierson, son of Nels Pierson. They resided in the area west of Clarks until 1935, when they moved to a farm three miles east of Genoa. Bill died suddenly in January 1977. Gladys still resides on the farm. Bill and Gladys have two sons. Darwin lives in Columbus and Eugene lives in the New York City area.

In 1948, Emil and Ada Hamilton sold their farm to Francis McConnell and moved to Central City. Emil passed away in August 1949. Ada continued to make her home in Central City as long as she could live alone. She spent the last couple of years with her daughter near Genoa and passed away in August of 1970 at the age of 93 years. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hamilton*

CLARENCE & EDNA HANKE

On March 1, 1944, Clarence and I with our two boys, Roger and Dean, moved to Merrick County from Merrill, Iowa, where we had lived for two years. Previous to living at Merrill, we lived at Ithaca, Nebraska. The building of the Mead Ordinance Plant had forced us to leave the community where we had grown up. Clarence and his father, Herman Hanke, farmed together and the farm was taken over by the government. The two years at Merrill, Iowa were spent on a farm while Clarence's parents lived in LeMars. The reason for coming to Merrick County came about when the farm on which we are now living was sold at public auction. This was the girlhood home of Minnie Zamzow Hanke, Clarence's mother, and was purchased by Clarence's father. This farm is located one mile south and two and one-half miles west of Archer, just half a mile west of the Archer Zion United Methodist Church, formerly Evangelical United Brethern, which was a land mark in its day. It was replaced with a new structure in 1976, and is our home church.

Irrigation was just getting under way in 1944 in this area and Clarence's father had an irrigation well put down the fall before we moved here. There were only two elm trees near the house and to the north and west were pasture and meadow so a shelter belt was planted within several months after we came. Before the trees grew tall enough to stop the winter snowstorms, we would often be snowed in for several days. In the winter of 1948 and 49, we were practically snowed in from the sixteenth of November until the end of March. Our car was left at the church and a team of horses and wagon took us to the church through the field. At first the snow plow could open the road but with additional snow coming periodically, it soon was a lost cause. When the storms had finally subsided and warmer weather was on the way, bigger equipment was used to open the road.

In the summer of 1946 Karen was born at Palmer in Mary Wells' Nursing Home with J.Y. Racines the attending physician.

Our youngsters attended rural school Districts #35, #44, and #28 and then graduated from Central City High School.

Roger and Diane live on a farm about three miles from us with their three children, Jeff, Jody and Jason.

Dean and Cheryl live in Columbus. Their children are Timm, Cathy and Angela.

Karen and Alan Peck live in Central City with their three children, Laurie, Bobby and Sheri.

We were reluctant to leave our home, friends and relatives at Ithaca, and also at Merrill, Iowa, but have come to realize that the moving was really a blessing in disguise. *Submitted by Edna Hanke*

DALE & SUE HANNAPPEL

Dale J. Hannappel is the son of John and Louise (Schroeder) Hannappel. Dale was born in Central City, Nebraska, the day before Christmas, 1942.

Dale spent his childhood and teen years doing something he has always loved: helping his dad farm. They lived two and one-half miles southwest of Clarks, just off Highway 92.

Dale attended a country school, District #5. After eighth grade, Dale attended Clarks Public High School and graduated in 1960.

Dale farmed for his dad till he joined the Army. Dale took his basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado. One thing, when Dale joined the Army he hoped to see some of the world, but after he finished his basic training they sent him right back to Fort Carson. This is where he spent the rest of his Army term, as a foot soldier in the infantry.

After Dale had served his term, he moved to Lincoln, where he enrolled in the Milford Trade School, to learn to be a machinist. He worked as a gas station attendant on week-ends and at nights.

Sue Ellen (Booth) Hannappel is the daughter of Edward and Iona (Rice) Booth. She was born in Clarks, in the home she grew up in.

Sue attended Clarks Public School from kindergarten through her high school graduation, 1962. Sue spent a good part of her childhood summers going to baseball games rooting for her four brothers, who played baseball coached by her dad.

After graduation Sue moved to Lincoln, where she attended Reece & Sybil School of Hairdressing, and worked at the movies in the evening. She graduated and went to work in a beauty shop in Lincoln.

Dale and Sue were old schoolmates and dated for a few years before they were married December 26, 1964, in St. Peter's Church at Clarks, Nebraska.

After several more months in Lincoln, they moved to Beatrice, where Dale managed a gas station, and Sue got a job as a beautician. Beatrice is where their first child was born, Christine Ann, October 8, 1966.

Soon after Christine was born, they learned that Dale's father wanted to retire from farming. They were not that satisfied with their city life, so they decided here was their chance to get into farming.

They moved back to Clarks, in February of 1967, to start farming. They rented Dale's father's farm and several other farms. They finally were able to buy his father's farm after several years of farming. This farm has been in Dale's family for the last two generations: Casper, John, and now Dale.

Since moving back to Clarks, they have added four more children to their family. They are: Lorie Sue, Nick Alan, Tina Louise, and Renae Marie. Dale's children are following in his footsteps, as they, too, attend a country school, District #50, and they all help with the farming.

These later years, Dale has been joined in his farming operation by his brother, Don. Together they feed out cattle, hogs, and have irrigated row crops. *Submitted by Sue Ellen Hannappel*

JOHN HANNAPPEL

John Hannappel was born in Schuyler in the year 1906, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kasper Hannappel. His father came to United States on a ship at the age of eighteen. His parents stayed in Germany. He married Anne Brummer, and they settled in Schuyler until 1915 when Kasper bought a farm two and one half miles south west of Clarks.

The journey from Schuyler to Clarks was not easy as roads and means of transportation were still very primitive. Several journeys were made with team and wagon, and at the age of nine years John helped his family move here, by driving a team and wagon. It took several days, with rain and cold winds making the journey difficult.

John lived with his family and grew to manhood in the vicinity of Clarks. Hard times, drought, grasshoppers, and dust storms all became a part of living on a farm. After much consideration, John left the farm for the big city of Omaha, with its many opportunities in the eyes of a young man. His sister, Rachel, was living in Omaha then, and helped make his stay easier. After several years of working in Kellogg cornflakes factory, John found the glamour of the city fading, and he returned to his father's farm at Clarks. His parents retired to Clarks, with John buying the farm.

John married Irene Supancheck of David City in the year 1930. They were the parents of four children: Wallace, Darlene, Gerald and Louis. Irene died at the birth of Louis in June of 1935. The grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Supancheck, took Louis home and cared for him. After a year John felt that his family was not complete, so Louis was brought home to be raised with his brothers and sister.

It was a constant struggle to keep a housekeeper, and in the year 1938 Louise Schroeder came to Clarks and became a housekeeper in his home. They were married in July of 1940, and were parents of six children: Dale, Maxine, Joyce, Larry, Don, and Tom.

Times were hard, and the rains never came at the right time to complete a corn crop. He was always planning ahead for a better and more efficient way of farming. John was one of the first farmers in Merrick County to put down an irrigation well. It soon became a proven fact that irrigation was here to stay.

John retired from farming and moved into Clarks in the year 1972. He then became active as a salesman for the Thomas D. Murphy Company of Red Oak, Iowa, selling specialties. It became his hobby, one he loved, for it helped him stay active and gave him a chance to visit people in many localities.

John died of a heart attack in September of 1977 at the age of seventy-one. He is survived by his wife Louise, ten children, twenty-five grandchildren, and two sisters, Rachel of California and Barbara of Texas.

Wallace and wife Phyllis live in Cozad where he is employed at Monfort's Elevator. Darlene is an account representative for Employers Overload of Denver. Gerald lives in Phoenix and is the building contractor for SunCrest Builders. Louis and wife Lila live in Fairbury, Nebraska. He is a sales representative for Rhen Marshal, Inc. Dale and Sue bought the home place and live there with their family. Don and Dale farm in partnership. Maxine and husband live in Phoenix. He is a designer's engineer for Phoenix. Joyce is married to Dennis VanPelt, lives in Lexington, and he is employed at Sperry New Holland in the management division. Larry is a C.P.A. and is employed at John Mansville Headquarters in Denver. He and his wife Darcy live in Littleton, Colorado. Tom is a senior in Clarks High School.



John and Louise Hannappel

John served on the school board in his district, and also was on the board of directors when the Co-op elevator was built in Clarks. He was a member of St. Peter's Church of Clarks, serving as trustee for several years. He was a faithful member of the Knights of Columbus.

He left a legacy to his family: never be ashamed to work — if you believe what you are doing is right, God will give you the strength to accomplish it successfully. *Submitted by Louise Hannappel*

REV. PHILLIP HANNEMANN

Rev. Phillip Hannemann and his family became residents of the Worms community when he was installed as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Worms on November 7, 1976. Son of the Rev. Norman and Dorothy (Moh) Hannemann, Pastor was born at Ponca, Nebraska June 3, 1949 while his father was at his first pastoral charge at nearby Newcastle. He is the oldest of three boys and one girl. His father's calling naturally provided opportunities for frequent moving. The family subsequently had their homes also in Lidderdale, Iowa, Cheyenne, Wyoming, and York, Nebraska.

Pastor Hannemann graduated from Concordia High School and Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebraska in 1967 and 1971 repesctively, and he earned the **BSE** degree from the latter. He was a four-year member of the college's world-touring A cappella Choir and took part in its 1971 European tour. It was also the chior which gave him his first introduction to Zion Church as it was on the itinerary of a state-wide tour. Pastor Hannemann went on to earn his Masters of Divinity degree at Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, graduating in 1975. His year of vicarage/internship was spent at Zion Lutheran Church, Pittsburg, Kansas where he also served as director of the Lutheran chapel on the Kansas State College, Pittsburg campus.

On August 6, 1972 he was married to Linda K. Nelson of York, Nebraska. Mrs. Hannemann, born to Jess and Donna (Blum) Nelson on February 18, 1948 in York, is the oldest of three girls. Linda graduated from York High School in 1966 and was employed as a secretary-bookkeeper at various York firms. From 1963 to 1972 she served as organist for Faith Lutheran Church, York, and she continues to teach piano lessons. Her biography is listed in the 1973 edition of *Outstanding Young Women of America*.

Their first child, Heather Dawn, was born June 18, 1975 at Springfield, Illinois. Christopher Phillip was born July 28, 1977 and Timothy Walter was born March 25, 1980, both at Grand Island, Nebraska.

Previous to his coming to Worms, Pastor Hannemann served as assistant pastor at Eastern Heights Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota from 1975 to 1976. Since being at Worms, he has also served as vacancy pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Central City (1978) and at St. John's Lutheran Church, Palmer (1980-81). His positions in the Grand Island, Nebraska Circuit of the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod include circuit treasurer and circuit youth counselor.

Besides keeping the home for her family of five, Mrs. Hannemann is an active member of a number of organizations. These include the Cheerie Center Extension Club, the Lutheran Layman's League Fellowship Club, Dorcas Ladies Aid, and Aid Association for Lutherans. *Submitted by Rev. Phillip Hannemann*

KATHERINE HANSEN

Katherine Grosvenor Hansen was born November 8, 1912 to Harve E. and Lida B. Grosvenor in Aurora, Nebraska. Harve was born in Hordville, Nebraska and Lida was born in Springfield, Illinois and moved to Hamilton County, Aurora, Nebraska when she was four years old.

Katherine received her education in the Aurora schools, graduating in 1930. After graduation she worked at various jobs and started working for the gas company in November 1938. She married Cecil D. Hansen in August 1947 in North Platte, Nebraska. She continued her work with the gas company until February 1, 1948.

Katherine was a member of the Presbyterian Church and started singing with the church choir at the age of twelve. She was a past president of the Business and Professional Women's Club and past president of the Junior Women's Club both of Aurora. She worked in Cub Scouts while her two sons were involved and she planned tours for the Senior Citizens for many years.

Cecil was born March 27, 1915 to Chris M. and Jennie Andersen Hansen at Ord, Nebraska. He received his education in the Ord schools, was a World War II Veteran and was in the grocery business until his death in July 1960. They had two sons, David born February 1, 1948 and James born July 9, 1951. Both boys are employed in Grand Island but live in Central City.

From 1960 until 1968, Katherine worked at odd jobs then worked with the OEO program until 1972 as an out-reach worker. From 1972 until 1974 she worked as a Director of the Merrick County OEO program.

In September 1974, Katherine moved to Central City still working as Director of the Multi-Purpose Center when the funding changed to City-County funding. During this period of time several attempts were made for funding the Mini-Bus which was finally funded in 1976 and put into service February 1, 1977.

Meals on Wheels started in 1975. The Pantry was formed in 1976 and maintained by Church Women United and the Ministerial Association of Merrick County. There was also a grant applied for, for the renovation of the Stranberg building in 1976 and it was moved into January 1, 1977. Central City and Cario were the first Centers in Nebraska receiving grants for the purpose of renovating old buildings.

In 1977 the Senior Citizens discount cards started in June for any Senior Citizens, sixty-two and over. They were given by the merchants of Central City and brought about through the Chamber of Commerce.

Congregate meals were started in March 1979. Katherine also promoted Santa's Hands in 1974 and helped with the starting of the Rhythm band.

Another very good program was the R.S.V.P. (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program) which insured each member belonging to it. It took care of a portion of their meals and paid mileage to whoever drove a car for the group. This was dropped due to lack of funds. Many benefited by this program while it was going and especially the Rhythm Band.

Katherine enjoyed the Senior Citizens Tours she sponsored and helped to make funds for many Senior Citizens. She enjoyed working with people of all ages including the Senior Citizens. *Submitted by Katherine Hansen*

HANS PETER HANSEN

Hans Peter Hansen, was born November 1, 1868, in Nysted, Lolland, Denmark, son of Christian and Sidsil Hansen. At the age of twelve he came to America with his parents, eventually settling in Custer County, Nebraska.

H.P. Hansen married Celia Nelson, February 22, 1894, in Mason City, Nebraska, where they started their married life on a farm south of town; living in a sod house. Celia was born September 4, 1874, in Lake Forest, Illinois, shortly after her parents, Jens Peter and Ane Marie Nelson, immigrated to America from Ruystad, Soneland, Denmark. Her family had also settled in Custer County, Nebraska.

Three daughters were born in Custer County to Mr. and Mrs. H.P. Hansen: Florence (Mrs. Walter Davis) in 1895; Irene (Mrs. Edward Jandrall) in 1897; and Eunice (Mrs. Bert Achenbach) in 1899. In 1904, they moved to Clarks, Nebraska, where they remained for forty years. Two more children, Vernon on September 4, 1905, and Doloris (Mrs. David Tobias Morgan) in 1907, were born in Clarks. Mr. Hansen was section foreman on the Union Pacific Railroad, until his retirement. They built a home at the west end of Amity Street. In 1944, Mr. and Mrs. Hansen celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They moved back to Mason City that same year, where they lived in the Nelson family home. Later, they moved to Kearney, Nebraska.

In Clarks, the Hansen's were members of the Congregational Church, and were willing and active workers — both in church and civic activities. Mrs. Hansen was active in the Ladies Aid Society of the Congregational Church and a member of the Royal Neighbors Lodge, while in Clarks. Mr. Hansen died in 1950, and Mrs. Hansen in 1965; both are buried in the Clarks Cemetery. Mr. Hansen's mother, Sidsil, had made her home with them in Clarks for seven years; where she passed away in November, 1928. Mrs. Hansen's father came and lived with them from June, 1929, until April, 1937, when he died.

Mr. and Mrs. Hansen had 9 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild, at the time of their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Their early days in Clarks were eventful: they put up with gypsies; went through World War I and the Depression Years; and before they left Clarks, they had two grandsons serving in World War II: Walter Davis, in the Army, in Germany, and James Morgan, in the Navy, in the New Hebrides.

Through all the years, Mr. Hansen managed to take good care of his family and later enjoyed his grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Hansen are buried in the Clarks Cemetery. *Submitted by Mrs. Dave (Doloris Hansen) Morgan and Thomas E. Kelly*

PHOCIAN & DORA HANSEN

Wilhelm Phocian Hansen was born October 2, 1888 at Archer, Nebraska, the son of Emil and Mattie Hooper Hansen. He received his education in the public schools of Merrick County. He served in the United States Army in World War I and saw action in France.



Phoclan and Dora Hansen

Dora Pauline Wegner was the daughter of Wilhelm Frederick and Bertha Rudolf Wegner. She was born in the farm home near Archer, November 21, 1891.

Phoc and Dora were married on June 3, 1920, and lived all of their lives in Archer. They were long time members of the Archer Methodist Church, where Dora taught Sunday school, sang in the choir, and was very active in the Women's Society of Christian Service. She enjoyed doing fancywork and made many lovely things. She was a forty-seven year member of the Arbor Chapter No. 200 of Eastern Star in Central City and had previously served on the Council of Job's Daughters.

Phocian was a fifty year member of the Archer Methodist Church, and a member and a Past Master of Lone Tree Lodge No. 36 A.F. and A.M. in Central City. He held the Jordan Medal indicating that he had been a member of the Masonic Fraternity longer than any of his lodge brothers. He was Cashier of the Citizen's State Bank in Archer and from 1934 to 1954 served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Archer Cooperative Credit Association. He also was the Archer Postmaster from 1943 to 1958.

Dora died August 8, 1968. Phocian died December 13, 1973. They are buried in the Archer Evangelical Community Cemetery, which is located just south of the Archer Zion United Methodist Church. *Submitted by Their Nieces: Berniece Brandes and Esther Goerl*

LAWRENCE HARADON FAMILY

My husband, Lawrence Walter Haradon, and I came to Merrick County in 1938, Lawrence as a new county resident, and I returning to my former home area.



Lawrence, Judy, Charlotte and Fay Haradon

I was the former Fay Jones, daughter of James and Edna Jones, granddaughter of Clay and Alma Raser. I also had many aunts and uncles and cousins living nearby, so I was glad to return to Chapman.

Soon after graduating from Chapman High School, I had left to go to Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska. While working in Fremont, I met and later married Lawrence Walter Haradon, a young farmer from Cedar Bluffs, Saunders County. We remained in Cedar Bluffs a couple of years and then in 1938 made the move, with a small daughter, Charlotte Ann, to Chapman.

We moved onto the Raser farm one and one half miles northwest of Chapman, by the Warm Slough Bridge. This farm had been homesteaded by my great-grandfather, Wesley Raser. This was, also, the farm where my mother Edna Raser had lived and been married to James Jones in 1908.

While living on the farm near Chapman our second daughter, Judith Fay was born.

Having been a member of the Chapman Methodist Church all of my life, our family attended church there, and as the girls grew older, we attended the Evangelical Church west of us.

Farming in those years was very difficult, but we enjoyed living close to my family and lots of friends.

In 1945, both of my parents, Jim and Edna Jones, died leaving a great void in our lives. Lawrences' parents lived in Portland, Oregon and had begged us to come to God's Country, and so in 1946 we decided we would have a sale in March of 1947, and go to Portland to live near Lawrences' family.

Charlotte was ten years old two days before we left Chapman, and Judy became six two days after we left, so they had both gone to school in Merrick County.

We have enjoyed a wonderful life here in Portland, Oregon, Multnomah County. Lawrence and I have especially enjoyed the scenic beauty and the recreational opportunities available close by.

Our daughters both married, and live in Portland. Charlotte has two sons, both in college. Judy has three sons, one in college and two graduating from high school this year.

We are always proud to say that we are from Chapman, Merrick County, in Nebraska. We have many relatives and friends there yet, and we frequently make trips to Nebraska, where much of our time is spent visiting within the county. *Submitted by Fay Jones Haradon*

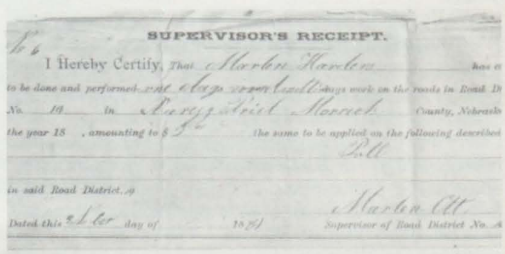
MARTIN J. HARDERS

Martin Johannas Harders was born at Gudendorf, Holstein-Germany on October 21, 1858, the son of Johann H. and Anna M. (Sievers) Harders. It was in this area of Germany that Martin spent his childhood years and grew to manhood. But, Martin and his family saw better opportunities in the United States, and they departed for America on the German steamship *Westphalia* with hundreds of other passengers on board. The family arrived at New York Harbor on June 30, 1880, and came directly to Central Nebraska. It was within the confines of Merrick County that the family first settled, and they made their home there for approximately two years.



Mr. and Mrs. Martin Harders — 1887

Martin made his first American income by helping to build the roads in the county, receiving $3.00 for one days work. Evidence of this comes from an old check (dated November 9, 1881) preserved through the years. By the year 1883, the family had purchased land in Hall County and it was here that Martin spent the remainder of his life. *Submitted by Ken Harders*



SUPERVISOR'S RECEIPT.

No. 6

I Hereby Certify, That Martin Harders has c
to be done and performed one days work on the roads in Road Di
No. 14 in Nerry District Merrick County, Nebraska
the year 18 , amounting to $ 3.00 the same to be applied on the following described
Poll
in said Road District.

Dated this 9th day of 1881 Martin Ott
Supervisor of Road District No. 4

HARDS

Nicholas J. Morris was born in 1792 in New York City and was a veteran of the War of 1812. His wife, Emma, was the daughter of Walter and Elizabeth Graham Van Tuyle, and was born in Orange County, New York June 15, 1797. Emma's father Walter Van Tuyle was a veteran of the Revolutionary War.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Morris. Their daughter, Melvina Catherine, was born in Orange County, New York, March 13, 1838. The family started west in a historic prairie schooner. Mr. Morris filed an eighty acre claim near Chapman, Nebraska where they spent the remaining years of their life. The mother died August 28, 1873 and the father December 25, 1877.

Melvina Morris was united in marriage to Ebenezer Hards at Annawan, Illinois, July 27, 1869. No children were born to this union. In 1871 they came to Merrick County settling on a farm near Chapman. They moved to Central City a few years later, where Mr. Hards entered the mercantile business. Prior to that he was, for a short time, in business in Chapman.

Mr. Hards was very successful in his business venture and retired after accumulating a comfortable fortune. He was a veteran of the Civil War, serving with Company K, 139th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Ebenezer Hards died August 17, 1902 at the age of fifty-seven years. He suffered from "consumption of the stomach." All that travel and medical skill could suggest was done to arrest the disease.

Mrs. Hards was a talented and cultured lady. In the early days she was a teacher in county schools. She later helped her husband in the mercantile business. She was active in many organizations in the city. Foremost in her heart was the Woman's Relief Corp of Nebraska; she held several state offices.

During her last year of life Mrs. Hards offered to donate a new city library building as a memorial to her husband. She helped the city purchase the lots and Oscar Almquist was hired as contractor. The day before her death she devoted nearly two hours to inspecting the nearly completed library — one of her last wishes was to see the building dedicated. However this was not to be.

On May 22, 1929 at the age of ninety-one, Mrs. Hards died at her home, 122 D Street. She had apparently caught her sleeve on the handle of a gas jet on the kitchen stove and was asphyxiated. Her friends Louise Ormsby Thompson and Mrs. Travers became concerned about her and checking on her found her dead. The Hards are buried in the Central City Cemetery.

The Hards Memorial Library was dedicated September 27, 1929. *Compiled From Central City Newspapers*

REIMER HARGENS FAMILY

The Hargens families of Merrick and Hall counties originate from the northern area of Germany known as Schleswig-Holstein. Reimer Hargens was born in this area at the town of Marne on August 14, 1810. His parents were Hans and Margaretha Christina (Johannsen) Hargens, who were farming people near the village of Auenbuttel. Reimer, like his father, followed this trade in his native land. Reimer farmed near the village of Kattrepel near Marne, and it was here that he met his future wife, Wiebke Kloppenburg. They were married at Marne on February 28, 1841. Wiebke was the daughter of Steffen and Anna (Rohwedder) Kloppenburg and was born at Kattrepel on October 29, 1818.

In the year 1881, the family left Germany, and came to the United States where they arrived at New York Harbor. From New York they came directly to Merrick County, and settled on a farm east of Grand Island. Within a year after the family's arrival, the first tragedy struck the family. Wiebke died from a terrible cough which was caused by a bone that was caught in her throat. She was buried in the old section of the Grand Island City Cemetery. In the same year, Reimer with his son Peter, moved to a farm eight miles northwest of Grand Island in Hall County, and it was here that Reimer spent the remainder of his life. He died on March 26, 1905, at the age of ninety-four years. He is buried beside his wife in the Grand Island Cemetery.



Reimer Hargens

Reimer and Wiebke had seven children, all born at Marne, Holstein, Germany:

Hans was a farmer at Greeley County and had four children: Minnie, Lena, Christina, and John.

Christina married Johann H.C. Horstmann in Germany, and to this union three children were born: Johann Anton, Elizabeth Wiebke Therese, Anna Christina Matilda, who married Karl (Charles) Luebbe.

Peter married Margaret Schultz and they had seven children: Katharina married Herman Busch, Wiebke married Peter Wieck, Margaretha married first Henry Leubker and second to Herman Shipman, Marie married Johann Leubee, Anna married Franz Wieck, Wilhelmina married William Shipman, infant son.

Reimer was married twice. His second marriage was to Elizabeth Luethje. One daughter was born from each marriage; Emma, married Otto Wagner; Margaret married a man by the name of Bahrs.

Johann married Amelia Kramer and fifteen children were born to them: Reimer married Emma Stange, Matilda married John Schwartz, Lena married Louis Myers, Christina married Henry Busch, Henry married Agnes Murningham, Emma married John Schwartz, Minnie married John Reher, Anna married Otto Neutce, Martha married Arthur Yenney, and William married Florence Johnson. One son, John, died at the age of 25 from appendicitis. Four others died in infancy.

Anna married Fred Schwartz, and they had six children: William, Frederick, John, Henry, Pauline, and Christina.

Hinrich married Wilhelmina Kay. They had four children: Reimer married Ella Claussen, Rudolph married first to Frieda Harders and second to Erna (Kosemund) Gerdes, Arthur married Anna Stoltenburg, Caroline married Henry Schuett. *Submitted by Ken Harders*

DAVID & GENEVIVE HARRIS

David (Mike) married Genevive Steinke, daughter of Henry and Rosa Steinke of Central City, February 20, 1952. They have lived in and around Central City all their married lives and are presently caretakers of the Central City Cemetery. They have five children. Charlene is married to John Wobig and they live in Lincoln, where she is a registered nurse, and John is General Manager of Snyder Fiberglass. They have two sons. Jim and his wife Cheryl live in Waverly where he is employed with the State Scale Division. They have two sons. Claire is married to Gordon Schott and they live on a farm at Clarks. They have four children, two boys and two girls. Robbie is married to Fred McHargue and they also live in Lincoln where Fred is with the Generic Surveys of the State Department and Robbie is employed at C.T.U. They have a daughter. Mickey is at home and will be a freshman at Central City High School. *Submitted by Mrs. David (Mike) Harris*



David Harris Family

LAWSON HARRIS FAMILY

Early in the summer of 1878, a small wagon train left Springfield, Wisconsin, to journey westward to the "Promised Land" of Nebraska. Among this band of travelers was the family of William and Prudence Harris; several children, one of whom was a son, Lawson, and a hired girl named Angeline Van Dyke. She was brought to help with the care of the younger children. The trip took about one month since the oxen pulling the wagon could travel about twenty miles a day. They crossed the Mississippi at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and the Missouri at Omaha by ferry.



Lawson Harris Family — **Back from left** — Viola, Percy, Will, Mae, Vera, Angeline, Myrtle, Lawson.

The Harris family stopped at Silver Creek where their daughter, Anna, was working. Anna married Dr. Larry Robinson, a doctor in the Silver Creek, Clarks, and Central City area.

Lawson and Angeline Van Dyke were married on January 21, 1880, at the Silver Creek Episcopal Church, by Rev. Henry Shaw. The church was two blocks east of the present Catholic Church. In 1889, Lawson and Angeline homesteaded 160 acres northwest of Silver Creek. The homestead was later owned by Hamer and Matousek families. Lawson took an eighty-acre timber claim in 1899, and planted ten acres of trees. This farm is located just west of the cemetery, now owned by the Grosch family.

The Harris family had the pioneer experiences common to all early settlers of Nebraska: grasshoppers, droughts, fires, and most of all, Indians, since they lived so close to the reservation at Genoa. Many times they heard the war dances and death wails of the Pawnee. The Indians were frequent visitors to the Harris family. Angeline and the children were deathly afraid of them, since they made themselves quite at home. Any food in the house was quickly devoured. The puppies of the children were not safe either, as they were stolen when they became round and fat. They made such "heap good puppy soup."

Lawson and Angeline had ten children. Larry, the eldest, died at the age of eighteen during surgery performed on the kitchen table.

May married Albert Bivens of Polk County in 1900. They had three children.

Will married Anna Storer of Gothenburg. Of their five children, only one survived.

Percy married Leda Weste, whom he met in the service, and moved to Ventura, California. They had one son.

Viola married Charles Brown and lived in Shelby, Iowa. They had one daughter.

Veva, who was Viola's twin, married Harry Hutchison, and was widowed in a few months.

Myrtle married Frank Whited. She taught school for many years in Silver Creek. Myrtle had three step-sons and one daughter.

Maud, who was Myrtle's twin, and Anna died in infancy.

Eleanor, the youngest, never married but stayed home with her aged mother.

Lawson died suddenly in 1914, and Angeline passed away at the age of 93 in 1946. She was known through the community as "Grandma Harris," to friends as well as relation.

None of the original family remain. There are five grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and twenty-seven great-great-grandchildren.

The lives of these descendants of Lawson and Angeline suggest other stories. Let us end this one by saying, "To be continued . . ." *Submitted by Carol Harris Atkinson and Evelyn Bivens Mueller*

WILLIAM & JOSEPHINE HARRIS

William (Stub) Harris was born January 23, 1877 to Orville and Addie Harris and moved to Merrick County in 1910. Josephine Farrell Harris was born to Hanoria and James Farrell on August 26, 1878, on the family farm, which was homesteaded by James Farrell, near Central City. Josephine and Bill Harris were married May 23, 1900, in St. Michael's Church in Central City. They lived here and had Belle, May 19, 1901. They then moved to Lincoln for a few years where Mr. Harris was employed on the railroad and they had James, March 20, 1903. Then the next year, they moved back to Central City and lived on the farm of James Farrell for the next 32 years. They had 9 more children: Claire, June 28, 1904; Leo, June 3, 1903; Eleanor, December 6, 1906; Orville, April 28, 1908; Francis (Chick), March 2, 1910; Jack, June 10, 1911; Helen, August 29, 1916; David (Mike), July 25, 1914; and Clarence (Swede), April 21, 1917.

Bill Harris was a fine baseball coach and all of his sons played for him at one time. In 1924, he and Allie Powers took the American Legion team to Omaha to the State Tournament. Two of his sons, Mike and Swede, as well as others from here were on the team.



William Harris Family

The family grew and married, Belle to Art Alwood; Jim never married; Claire to Embree Widman; Leo to Helen Weller; Eleanor to Eloyd Fraizer; Orville was killed in California in 1930; Francis to Opal Barth; Jack to Helen Daron; Helen never married; David (Mike) to Genevive Steinke; and Clarence (Swede) to Kay.

In 1932, Josephine and Bill Harris moved to California where Bill passed away, December 12, 1933. Jack was killed in World War II, January 22, 1944. Leo died in 1949 and Francis (Chick) in 1960, Josephine in 1970, Jim in 1975, and Clarence (Swede) in 1977. Three of the girls, Belle, Eleanor and Helen live in California. Claire and David live in Central City. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. David (Mike) Harris*

HENRY HARRY FAMILY

Henry Harry and his wife Johanna Berg were born and raised in the providence of Westphalia, Germany. They emigrated to the United States in 1884. They settled for a short time in Howard County but came to Merrick County around 1900 and remained here for the remainder of their long lives. Mr. Harry was actively engaged in farming and was also a cattle buyer. The Harry family lived on a farm northwest of the Chapman community, now known as the Vanderford place. The Harrys were prominent members of the Zion Lutheran Church at Worms, Nebraska.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harry

Henry and Johanna were the parents of twelve children: Henry, Fred, Alvena, Louise, Herman, Anna, Emma, Marie, Freda, Bill, Ernest and Laura. Three of their sons became prominent and well known auctioneers in this area. They were Henry, Herman and Bill. Fred became a farmer living in Hall County and later farming by Omaha. Alvena married Otto Schwarz, who died of the flu in 1919. Emma became a nurse but also died at an early age. Louise and Freda moved to New York where Freda formed her own insurance company. Anna married Frank Schwarz and after his death she became Mrs. Z.C. Peck and spent her entire life around the Central City community. Marie died very young when her clothing caught on fire. Ernest died at the age of 22 when his team of horses was struck by a Union Pacific train at a crossing in Chapman. Laura married George Welton and lived for many years on the Harry home place northwest of Chapman. In 1947 the Weltons moved to Grand Island where Laura still resides. Many of the descendents of these twelve children still remain in Merrick County and the surrounding area.

In later years Mr. Harry was associated with John Hollister in the Harry-Hollister meat market in Chapman.

Mr. Harry died in 1934 at the age of eighty years and Mrs. Harry passed away in 1946 at the age of eighty-four years. *Submitted by Laura Harry Welton*

HERMAN HARRY

Herman Henry Harry was the son of Henry and Johanna Berg Harry who came to Merrick County in Nebraska from Westphalia, Germany in 1884. Herman was born into a family of twelve children on a farm northwest of Chapman in 1889. He helped his father farm until the age of nineteen when he left home and went to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he ran a dance hall and amusement park. He entered World War I at Camp Funston and served in the military until the end of the war. He came back to Nebraska and assisted his brother Henry in the operation of a livery barn and dance hall in Giltner, Nebraska. It was at this time that he began to auctioneer.

In 1926 he moved back to Chapman. Soon afterward he became associated with another brother, Bill, in the operation of Harry Livestock Commission Company in Grand Island. He was associated with Harry Livestock and later Third City Livestock for about thirty years. All during this time he also auctioneered for hundreds of Merrick and Hall County farm sales. He also was a reliable cattle and hog buyer and a trucker for many in this area.

Herman had a very genial personality and had a wide circle of friends which helped him to develop a well established reputation as one of the reliable and popular businessmen of the Chapman community. He was always ready to lend his cooperation for the general good of the community and also served as mayor and on the town council of the town. He had an especially warm place in his heart for all of the children of the community. He was personally recognized and respected over a wide central Nebraska area. Herman is also remembered in the book "75 Years in the Saddle" by Joe Christie, a colleague in the livestock business.



Mr. and Mrs. Herman Harry

Mr. Harry was married to Margaret Colby. They lived in Chapman their entire married life and had two children Carol, now Mrs. Gary Mathis of Chapman and Clinton of Grand Island. Mr. Harry died in October of 1963 at the age of seventy-three years. *Submitted by Carol Harry Mathis*

NEAL & AGNES HARTFORD

Neal Hartford was born February 1, 1905, southeast of Palmer on the Hartford Family Homestead, one-half mile from the Merrick County line. Agnes Fay was born on March 16, 1903, south of St. Paul on the Fay Timberclaim, in Howard County.

Prior to their marriage, Neal attended school in Howard County and then farmed on the family farm, while Agnes attended St. Paul Business and Normal College and Kearney State College. She then taught eight grades in one-room rural schools in Hall and Howard Counties. They were married on July 5, 1926, and moved to Merrick County from Howard County on March 1, 1929. At this time, they bought a lease on the school land section 16T15R6, ten miles north and one mile west of Central City. This lease was held by the Hartford family for 50 years.

On May 27, 1927 a son Neal LaVern joined the family. During the years of 1931-1933 the family resided on a farm owned by Mr. Morgan Newlon. Neal was employed by Mr. Newlon in his farming and cattle operation. It was during this time that LaVern began his schooling at District #23. He completed his elementary education at Mead School, District #19, and graduated from Central City High School in 1945.

In 1934 the family returned to the school land farm and resumed farming of this land. During World War II, in 1943, a bombing range was built by the U.S. Government approximately one mile north of the farm site. This bombing range condemned three sections of land surrounding and including their home. By special arrangements with



Neal and Agnes Hartford

the government, the family was allowed to remain in their home. During the years in Merrick County Neal has served on the Board of Supervisors of Merrick County for 12 yrs., (1960-1972), for Mead and Midland Townships. For seven years, he also served as a member of the Central Platte Natural Resources District. Neal was privileged to take part in the Bicentennial Wagon Train in 1976 when he rode his horse from Kearney to Osceola, Nebraska. He then rode the Nebraska covered wagon to Omaha and helped to load the wagon on the Missouri River barge. In 1974, Neal was honored with the Merrick County Stockman of the Year Award by the Lone Tree Rodeo Association. Agnes has been active in the County Extension clubs, being a fifty-year, charter member of the Friendship Extension Club, in which she still participates. She is also a member of the Dirt Daubers Garden Club, and has a green thumb as evidenced by the beautiful plants and flowers both in her yard and in her home.

Neal and Agnes have now retired on the farm, where Neal still rides his horse daily. Crops and livestock were the main products of the farming operation with the crops including corn, rye, wheat, oats, alfalfa, prairie hay, blue grass seed, and popcorn; and the livestock being Hereford cattle, hogs, chickens, and turkeys, as well as the by-products of milk, cream and eggs. There were always saddle horses for use in the livestock operation as well as riding for pleasure. Numerous fruits and vegetables were also produced in the garden and orchard.

Neal and Agnes celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1976. They have five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. *Submitted by Laverne and Shirley Hartford*

NEAL LAVERN HARTFORD

I, Neal LaVern Hartford was born on May 27, 1927. My parents, Neal and Agnes Hartford, resided southwest of Palmer, in Howard County. When I was approximately two years old, they moved to Mead Township in Merrick County. This neighborhood was to be my home for forty-eight years.

I started school in District #23, which I attended for one and one-half years. My grade school was completed at District #19, and I graduated from Central City High School.

I farmed with my father until I was called into the U.S. Army in January of 1951, and served until December, 1952. During this time I spent 16 months in Japan and Korea.

In 1953 I married Alice Foulk and we had five children: Cathy, twins Diane and Debra, Kenneth and Kevin.

We lived on and farmed the Ralph and Ella Severance farm for 13 years.

In 1972 I married Shirley (Lusk) Randall, who had two children, Susan and Michael, and we moved to Dad's farm until 1977.

We then moved to Central City where we owned and operated a clothing store for two years, and I worked for the City of Central City.

Shirley and I now reside in Aurora, andI am employed by Walnut Grove Products in Central City, while Shirley drives to Grand Island each day to work for a group of four doctors.

Our children have all moved away from home now, and are residing as follows: Cathy was married to Bob Richardson in December of 1971. Bob was killed in a car-train accident just west of Central City in November 1972. They had a daughter Jennifer Jo.

Cathy later attended Grand Island Business College and then Kearney State College, from which she graduated.

She and Jennifer now reside in Kearney, where Cathy is employed by Holiday Inn.

Diane attended District #19 and Central City High School, and was married to Terry Bengtson in August of 1973. They have a daughter, Teresa Suzanne. They now live in Geneva, where Terry is parts manager for John Deere and Diane is employed at the Filmore County Bank.

Debra attended District #19 and Central City High School, and graduated from the University of Nebraska. She still resides in Lincoln and is employed by the City of Lincoln.

Kenneth attended District #19 and Central City High School. He married Karen Hulinsky in July of 1976. They have two children, a daughter Tonya and a son Ryan. They now farm and ranch near Burwell, Nebraska.

Kevin attended District #19, Central City High School, and graduated from O'Neil High School. He married Karen Glause in June of 1979. They have a daughter, Mandee. They now live at Chambers, Nebraska, where Kevin is employed on a farm.

Sue attended Central City Public Schools and graduated in 1978. She married Vic Saltzman in September of 1979 and they have a daughter, Jana. They now reside in Lakewood, Colorado.

Michael attended Central City Public Schools and graduated in 1979. He is now a student at Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, where he is majoring in physics. *Submitted by Neal LaVern Hartford*

SPENCER HARTFORD FAMILY

Colonel Spencer Hartford, a Civil War veteran (the Indiana Cavalry) married Mary Ann Scarborough on February 6, 1868 in Indiana. Two sons and two daughters were born there.

In the spring of 1877 they waited for their daughter, Ester, to become six weeks old and with these small children they started west in a covered wagon drawn by horses. The trip to what is now Gage Valley in Howard County took two months.

Colonel Hartford helped to survey Gage Valley and areas around it. He filed a claim for a Homestead and built a sod house, planted trees and did some farming and raised some cattle. As there were no fences they used a "ditch corral" at night and either staked or herded the cows during the day. They did some of their farming with oxen.

Four more children were born in the sod house.

The above is from the Bible of Caroline Scarborough.

The children of Spencer and Mary Ann Scarborough were: Ann Elizabeth, who married George Hiett. They had ten children. John Thomas married Nora Davis. Bennie and Harry died as children. Ester Alice married Alfred Prince. Cornelius Spencer married Nellie Washburn. They had one child, Neal of Central City. Sarah married Arthur Johnson. Charles married Annie Haggart. *Submitted by Leota Rawlings Baird and Beulah Ross Scarborough*

CALVIN BLANCHARD HARTWELL

Calvin Blanchard Hartwell, born January 5, 1810 (possibly 1806), married Susan Hammond, of Shirley, Massachusettes, December 18, 1827, and had four children by her. They, however, were divorced, and Calvin left Massachusettes. He may have been in Michigan about 1835. Calvin was a Mason; possibly belonging to a lodge in Boston. He is said to have attended college at Harvard.

March 8, 1837, at Washington, Indiana, Calvin married Elizabeth Ragsdale. Her parents were pioneers in that area and she was born at Washington, December 22, 1819. Shortly thereafter, the Hartwells removed to Hillsboro, Illinois, where they remained until 1846; going from there to the Allendale/Albany area in Missouri.

Tradition says that, in Missouri, Hartwell was a Union sympathizer, living in a Confederate community. Regional tensions and practices, which erupted into a civil war in 1861, finally drove the Hartwell Family on to Nebraska Territory in 1862. Hartwell had been offered a major's commission in the Union Army after making application, but was unable to pass the physical examination. It seems he had incurred a boyhood injury which caused a slight limp. "He was always called Major although he never served in the army," recalled his granddaughter, Gladys Hartwell. Gladys continues:

"Mr. and Mrs. Hartwell left New Albany with only a yoke of oxen. Everything else had to be left behind them. The original intention was to go to Oregon but Elizabeth was sick when they reached Omaha. Her husband thought the risk was too great to take a sick wife and children through hostile Indian territory. So he worked on a ranch between Elk City and Omaha."



Calvin B. (1860) and Elizabeth Hartwell (1880)

In 1865, the Hartwells settled on Junction Ranch, about three miles east of what would later become Clarks; there operating a stagecoach stopover and trading post, near the great Western Trails of Migration. Pawnee Indians roamed this vicinity and camped across the River, to the south of the Ranch. The Family seems to have had a great deal of contact with the tribe. Another granddaughter, Meta (Kokjer) Key, recalled that, "My grandfather was highly respected by the Indians." Gladys, her cousin, says that, "Mr. Hartwell smoked the pipe of peace with them." Tradition says that a Pawnee chief presented Hartwell with a peacepipe. This pipe became a family heirloom, passing through several generations. In a small, special ceremony on December 23, 1976, the pipe was presented to Ronald Glasser, present owner of the Junction Ranch site, by Hartwell's granddaughter, Mrs. Key, and her great-grandson, Thomas E. Kelly.

Calvin Blanchard Hartwell, died on the Junction Ranch, February 22, 1878, and was buried there. The body was later moved to Fairview Cemetery, northeast of Clarks, where a marker was erected in his memory, as a bi-centennial project, in 1976. Mrs. Hartwell remained on the Ranch as late as June, 1880, but had moved to Clarks by June, 1885, and was residing with her son, Ed. She made her home with her daughter's family, the H.M. Kokjers, shortly thereafter; residing there until her death, November 30, 1916.

The Hartwells were pioneers in every sense of the word and inseparably connected with the history of Clarks from the beginning. Both the Ragsdale and Hartwell Families' ancestral roots in America date to the 1600's. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

THOMAS JEFFERSON HARTWELL

Thomas Jefferson Hartwell, was born in Illinois, probably at Hillsboro, September 22, 1840, son of Calvin Blanchard and Elizabeth (Ragsdale) Hartwell. According to the Hartwell Genealogy, "THE HARTWELLS OF AMERICA," Thomas Jefferson Hartwell was married twice; his second wife was Elizabeth Harrington of Bangor, Michigan, and the genealogy lists these children: Calvin B., born 1870 or 1871; Hannah Rosina, died in infancy; Oscar E., born about 1875, and died in 1927, married — no children; Myrtle, died in infancy; James and Joseph, twins, died in infancy; Thomas Jefferson, born 1880, died 1943, unmarried; John W., born November 13, 1882; Harry O., born 1889; William, born July 4, 1890; and Mary Alta, born March 2, 1894.

Family tradition says Thomas Jefferson Hartwell, or "Uncle Jeff", as he was known by family members, served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, and the family was ashamed of the fact. Exactly when he came to Merrick County, Nebraska, is unknown. T.J. Hartwell, age 29, farmer, born Illinois — appears on the 1870 Merrick County, Nebraska Census; his name immediately following: John C. Hartwell, age 24, farmer, born Missouri. A short distance down the page are listed: B(C).B. Hartwell, age 60, farmer, born Massachusettes; Elizabeth, age 50, keeping house, born Indiana; Rose, age 16, born Missouri; Melinda (Malina) A., age 13, and Amos Edgar, age 10, both born in Missouri.

T.J. Hartwell dealt in some land in Merrick County, in the 1870's. Appearing on the 1880 Merrick County, Nebraska Census, Village of Clarksville are: Thomas J. Hartwell, age 39, born Illinois, brick mason; with his wife, listed only as E.M., age 32, keeping house, born New York (as were her parents); and children: Calvin B., age 8, born Nebraska; Oscar E., age 5, born Nebraska; and Thomas J., age 2, born Nebraska.

The Thomas Jefferson Hartwell family had apparently left the Clarks area by June, 1885. He was residing in Omaha, Nebraska (as was his brother, John C. Hartwell) in 1916, at the time of his mother's death; and died there, April 5 or 6, 1930; interment in Laurel Hill cemetery. Survivors listed at that time: daughter, Mrs. May Petsche, Omaha; 5 sons: Calvin B., Seattle; Thomas J., Chicago; J.W. and N.O., Omaha, and William N., Chicago.

Of his children, the following information is also gleaned from the Hartwell genealogy. His son, Calvin Blanchard Hartwell, lived in Wala Wala, Washington, and had a son, Harry. John W. Hartwell, married and had children: John, Daniel, Muriel and Geneva. William Hartwell, died August 16, 1947, had children: Alta and Ethel. Mary Alta Hartwell, married a Philbrick, an Underwood and William Petsche. She apparently bore children only by Mr. Philbrick: Beatrice, born June 13, 1910, married Mark Pierce, divorced; Robert, born December 17, 1911, died May 24, 1938, married, had children: Barbara Jean, born September 25, 1932, and Donna Ray, born March 2, 1938; Cathleen born March 17, 1914, married a Mr. Nowak, and had at least one child, JoAnn, born December 1, 1936. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

CAROLINE SEWARD HARTWELL

Caroline Seward Hartwell, born December 6, 1842, in Hillsboro, Illinois, daughter of C.B. and Elizabeth (Ragsdale) Hartwell, moved with her parents to Allendale, Missouri, when she was a small child and lived there for many years. She was there married to Isaiah Poland, December 7, 1858, and they began housekeeping on a farm in that vicinity; coming to Clarks, Nebraska, in 1896. The Polands had nine children: four girls and five boys.

These remarks are found in her obituary:

"She was a woman of sterling character, quiet and unassuming in manner, kind hearted and loved and respected by all who knew her .... Mrs. Poland was truly a home lover. One could always find her at home. She was also a home maker. A good mother, having always the best interests of her children in her mind while she was not blessed with much of this world's goods yet she leaves to her children a rich estate that silver and gold cannot buy, a beautiful Christian life, the influence of which will be felt throughout their lives."



Mrs. C. B. Hartwell, 5 children **l-r** — Caroline, Malina, Ed, Mary, Lucy Anne.

Mr. Poland died, May 16, 1913, afterwhich, Mrs. Poland continued to make her home at Clarks. Her obituary mentions that she enjoyed spending much of her time in later years piecing quilts and gave many of them as gifts to her children. Carrie was confined to bed for nearly nine months prior to her death, a period during which she was unable to speak an audible word, because of the stroke she had suffered, which had paralyzed her vocal cords; "but", her obituary says, "her mind was clear and keen to the last." That narration continues by saying:

"While her education was limited she gained a great deal of knowledge through reading; she loved to read and spent much of her time in this way until the last year and a half when her eyesight failed. She was a great student of the Bible and read it through many times. During her sickness she loved to have it read to her; . . ."

Carrie Poland died at Clarks, July 7, 1933, and was buried beside her husband in the Clarks Cemetery. Her niece, Gladys Hartwell, recalled that, "Carrie's grandson, Vernon Sidders, was staying with her at the time of her death. She was a tall, stately, lady and it was her niece's (Gladys) delight to spend time visiting with her Aunt."

Caroline's husband, Isaiah Poland, was born September 2, 1831. The Merrick County, Nebraska Census for 1900, indicates that he was born in Virginia, and that both his mother and father were also born in Virginia. Isaiah and Caroline Poland's son, John Poland, who was born in Missouri, in June, 1869, was a blacksmith, and is said to have worked at the H.M. Kokjer blacksmith shop in Clarks. John was residing with her parents; sisters: Edith and Minnie, at Clarks, Nebraska, in 1900. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

JOHN GRANT POLAND

John Grant Poland, was born in Missouri, in June, 1869, according to the 1900 Merrick County, Nebraska Census; fourth of nine Isaiah and Caroline (Hartwell) Poland children, listed in the Hartwell Genealogy: George Washington, William Jefferson, Ida Belle, John Grant, Josiah Arthur, Margaret Elizabeth (Mrs. Samuel Welty), Carrie Edith (Mrs. William Lewis Sidders), Minnie Alice (Mrs. George Stouffer), and Robert J. Poland. This record indicates that John died, unmarried, in 1937 or 1938. John was residing with his parents; sisters: Edith and Minnie, in Clarks, Nebraska, in 1900; his occupation is listed as blacksmith. John is said to have worked at the Kokjer blacksmith shop, in Clarks.

This shop had its origins in the partnership of Hans Kokjer and John Spelman, when, in 1879, they built a blacksmith shop in Clarksville, Nebraska. Hans was boarding with the Spelman family, in Clarks, in 1880. This ad appeared in the "CLARKSVILLE MESSENGER", January 29, 1881:

Spelman
& Kokjer
GREEN STREET, South of Track

Carriage and Wagon Makers. Repairing of all kinds Promptly and Neatly done. New Work Made to Order. Horse Shoeing and Plow Work specialties, and warranted. Dealers in Grand Detour Plows, Riding and Walking; full Stock Always on Hand.

CLARKSVILLE .. NEB.

Apparently, at a time not long after this, Hans bought out Spelman's interest. In 1883, Hans married John Poland's aunt, Malina Hartwell, at Clarks.

Originally the shop was a small, one-story frame building; later a large, two-story frame building was erected; with the older building butted at the front, out from the side. This building stood until destroyed by fire set by a spark from a passing train, in 1911. Elva Osterhout, whose dad, Jordan Kokjer, worked in his brother's "smithy," recalls the shop in a 1977 Christmas Letter:

"When I was a child we sometimes visited relatives in Clarks and I have memories of the Kokjer Implement shop. It was a most fascinating place for a child to explore. Horses were brought into the large room in the center of the building to be fitted with shoes. A forge there had a hot fire where iron for the shoes was softened and a large anvil was used in shaping them. Farm implements were repaired there and useful tools made by the Kokjer craftsmen. A carpenter shop was in a room to the right, where Uncle Madsen, the cabinet maker, worked. I remember the curls of wood shavings below the bench, a delight for a



The Kokjer Blacksmith Shop at Clarks as it appeared in the 1890's

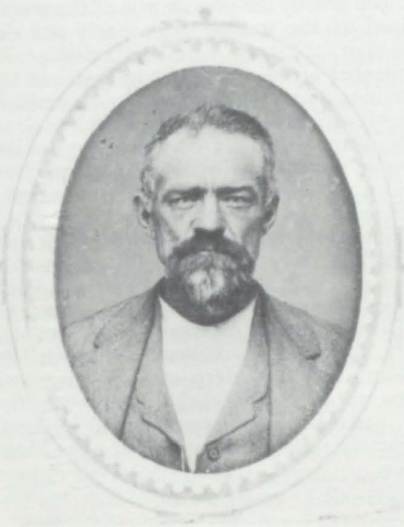
child to play with. The wing on the left was two stories high. A small office in front was papered with bright colored advertising pictures. New farm implements were stored on the ground floor and a platform elevator, operated by muscle, hoisted new buggies to the top floor. I remember the pleasure of climbing up there and sitting in the new buggies."

In 1894, Hans sold his interest in the shop to his brother, and partner, Mads Madsen Kokjer; who continued the business, selling farm implements, until his death, in 1934. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

JOHN McLEAN

John McLean — born in New York State, 1838; mother born in Vermont, father in Scotland; worked in the goldfields of California, then sailed around the Horn; said to have traveled to Scotland and England. John freighted goods from Council Bluffs to Kearney and Denver in 1865-66, and would stop at Junction Ranch, near Clarks. He there met Mary Elizabeth Hartwell, whom he married, December 14, 1866. In 1866, says his obituary:

"he settled on a farm near Clarks and was quite successful. In 1874 he left the farm and went into business in Clarks, running a general store and buying grain and livestock. He was successful for a few years but adversity came in 1879 . . . . his property pass(ed) into other hands. He made another effort to retrieve his fortunes with only fair success and about 1890 began a quest in various western states finally locating in the Poudre Valley . . ."



John McLean

The obituary describes him as:

"a character of the most rugged type, who hated sham and hypocrisy of every kind, . . . very intense in his likes and dislikes; with a high ambition for the development of the Platte Valley . . .

He was in life and purpose a citizen of the west, and was sworn to the work of overcoming nature to the good of all humanity."

John McLean was a lawyer. The 1882 Andreas history, records John as a participant in Merrick County District Court's first case, November, 1869, (the crime was grand larceny). This is a portion of that account:

"During the trial, a Mr. Considine was called as a witness for the State, and after the oath was administered he pointedly refused to testify. The court charitably gave witness time to consider the result of his mutinous conduct, and genial John McLean took charge of the obstinate fellow. Mr. McLean confidentially expounded the law with such force as to lead witness to agree to apologize to the Court for his insubordination. John appeared in open court and notified his Honor that witness had concluded to make a suitable apology for his lawless conduct. Witness approached the bench and addressing the court said: 'Mr. McLean stated true as to my intention then, but on re-consideration, I conclude to abide by my former decision and not testify.' A fine of either $10, or in default of payment, commitment to the Dodge County jail, was thereupon imposed upon witness. The sentence was actually served out in a box car upon the Union Pacific Railroad track."

He is said to have also been a surveyor; possibly the first in Merrick County.

John died in Colorado, December 2, 1913, and was buried at Windsor, near the 200 acre ranch he owned and had made home for about 15 years. Notes his obituary:

"Mr. McLean had been in poor health since last February, when he had a six weeks sickness of pneumonia, and for the last three months has been in a hospital."

He is said to have been shot over water rights; resulting in death. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

JOHN T. McLEAN

McLean, John T., of Central City, formerly of Clarks, Neb., treasurer of Merrick county, is a son of John and Mary (Hartwell) McLean, and was born October 1, 1867, on Eagle Island ranch, about one mile southwest of where the present town of Silver Creek, Neb., stands. The log house in which he was born is still standing, and was erected by his father on his preëmption three miles southwest of Clarks, Neb. In 1881 he entered the office of the Clarks *Messenger* and learned to set type. He then assisted his father in farm work for four years. After several months as clerk in a general store he again entered the *Messenger* office, where he remained until offered the position of station helper and pumper by the Union Pacific railway. While thus engaged he learned telegraphy and was about to accept a position as telegrapher when he was appointed bookkeeper in the Merrick County Bank (the First National Bank of Clarks), which he accepted and remained with the bank seven years, being assistant cashier during the last four years of that time, resigning October 15, 1907, to become cashier of the Clarks State Bank, just started. Later, he spent some time in general merchandising and managing a large ranch. Mr. McLean has been village clerk and village treasurer at different times, and in 1909 was elected county treasurer against a republican majority of from 100 to 300, and is now (1911) a candidate for reëlection against his former opponent. In 1899 he purchased the Clarks *Enterprise* and became its editor and publisher, in addition to his other business. Mr. McLean is a democrat in politics, a Mason, and a Knight of Pythias. He has been a member of the Congregational church for a number of years, and a trustee and deacon of the local organization. Mr. McLean was married on November 14, 1907, to Miss Florence May, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvanas Westgate, of Clarks, Neb. (Extracted, in its entirety, from, Albert Watkins, "History of Nebraska", Volume III, 1913)



John and Mary McLean, parents of John T. McLean

The 1882 Andreas — Nebraska History records the birth of John "F" McLean, son of John and Mary (Hartwell) McLean, as "the first natural increase to the population of Clarks." John Thomas McLean died in 1939, and his wife, Florence Westgate McLean, who was born in 1877, died in 1955. Mr. and Mrs. John T. McLean are buried in the Clarks Cemetery. *Submitted by Thomas E. Kelly*

MARY MAUD McLEAN

Mary Maud McLean, born at Clarks, Nebraska, May 13, 1872, graduated from Clarks High School, June 28, 1889, and gave the valedictory, 'Aims of Life', at the commencement program. "Maud" married Frederic Brown. "Fred" was born at Pecatonica, Illinois, November 18, 1862. Fred died May 18, 1948, and Maud in 1964; both are buried in the Clarks Cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Brown were the parents of five children: William Wallace, Edwin Frederic, Isabel, Jean Richard and Betty.

Maud (McLean) Brown was the daughter of John and Mary Elizabeth (Hartwell) McLean. Their were six children in that family: John Thomas, Laura Isabelle (Mrs. Silas Guthrie), Mary Maud, Mark, Ann Elizabeth and Robert E. Her parents were prominent individuals in early day Clarks. Reference is made elsewhere to Maud's father, John McLean, and brother, John T. McLean.



Four Generations — Maud (McLean) Brown, her mother, Mary (Hartwell) McLean, grandmother, Mrs. C. B. Hartwell, son, Wallace Brown

Maud's mother, Mary Elizabeth Hartwell, was born in Hillsboro, Illinois, January 5, 1846, and came to the Clarks, Nebraska area with her parents, C.B. and Elizabeth (Ragsdale) Hartwell, in 1865, and made her home with them on Junction Ranch. Mary married John McLean, December 14, 1866, and the 1882 Andreas history records this as "the first ceremony of the kind which ever occurred in Clarks." She was a member of the Clark's Congregational Church and Clarks community, and died there, at her home, October 10, 1920. The following is taken from a letter by Dr. W.L. Robinson; appearing in the "Clarks Enterprise", December 25, 1920:

". . . I am making this letter rather long, but, will promise not to inflict you often and before closing want to say a few words relative to the life of Mary McLean who has so recently passed from the scene of action. It seems to me that her obituary aught to have said more, much more, concerning her long life there. Settling there with her parents on the banks of the Platte while the Overland Stage Route was still in operation, . . . Mrs. McLean was always a friend in need, a helper in deed! She assisted me to initiate into the world many who are now active citizens of Clarks and to kindly minister to many others who had reached the Journey's end gently closing their eyes for their last long sleep. God never made a nobler woman than Mary McLean and to think of Clarks without her is to me almost unthinkable and into that world where she has gone, whatever it may be, I am sure she is rewarded according to her merits. Only a little over one short year since I left there and five who were there when I cast my lot among them have passed on. Only a few more are left and they like myself are bowed and broken by the weight of years or disease. We will all soon follow them, . . ."

Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly

JOHN CALVIN HARTWELL

John Calvin Hartwell, son of C.B. and Elizabeth (Ragsdale) Hartwell, was born December 1, 1848, at Albany, Gentry County , Missouri. With his parents and other members of the family, he came to Douglas County (Nebraska), in 1862, then came with them to Merrick County, in 1865, where they settled on Junction Ranch, east of present day Clarks.

November 20, 1871, John C. Hartwell married Mary E. Walkey. The license was issued in Central City. A Mary Walkey is named in this quote from the 1882 Andreas — Nebraska History: "In September, 1871, Mary Walkey taught the first school (i.e. at Clarks) in a sod shanty which had been erected on Mr. (i.e. C.B.) Hartwell's land." John and Mary Hartwell had four children; only their daughter, Daisy, is known to have survived to adulthood. All four were deceased at the time of John's death, in 1931.



J. C. Hartwell

John C. Hartwell farmed; was a member of the early Clarks Cornet Band, and was involved in a store, in Clarks. His niece, Gladys Hartwell, recalls, "John planted the trees that lined the road to the river from Clarks. They have since been destroyed. He and his wife lived on the west side of the road (south of town) until he left Clarks. Uncle John and Dad (A.E. Hartwell) had a store in Clarks. Dad sold to Uncle John and moved out on the farm."

According to John's obituary: "He was second publisher of the Clarks Messenger. James G. Krider established the Messenger in 1878 and was editor for six months then sold it to John C. Hartwell who had full charge for six years thereafter." The following quote is from the 1882 Andreas — Nebraska History:

> "The Clarksville *Messenger* was first issued May 4, 1878, by James G. Kreider. On the 10th of April, 1879, Mr. John C. Hartwell assumed control, Mr. Kreider having suddenly disappeared. On the 1st of May, 1880, Mr. A.T. Brown was added to the proprietorship, now under the firm name of Hartwell & Brown. August 2, 1880, Mr. Brown became exclusive proprietor, and January 29, 1881, the paper suspended. April 8, 1882, Mr. Hartwell renewed publication under the name of the *Revised Messenger. The Messenger* is a seven-column folio, patent outside, and has always been Independent, save under Mr. Brown's control, when it was Republican."

John C. Hartwell moved to Omaha, Nebraska, in 1895; resided there until moving to Plattesmouth; resided in Plattesmouth for four years prior to his death, and is said to have died at the Masonic Home there. His obituary, from the "Clarks Enterprise", says: "Funeral services were conducted from his late residence on Saturday, April 18, 1931."

Mrs. John Hartwell passed away in Omaha, "she had been a great sufferer for many years," notes the January 26, 1899 "Nonpariel". Burial was at Clarks. Fairview Cemetery Records list the interment, "Jan. 20, 1899, Mrs. John Hartwell, Age 58." A stone cross, in the Clarks Cemetery, reads: "MARY E. HARTWELL, MAR. 13, 1850, JAN. 17, 1899". It is the writer's understanding that Mrs. John Hartwell is buried in the Clarks Cemetery. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

DAISY HARTWELL

Daisy Hartwell, daughter of John C. and Mary (Walkey) Hartwell, was born about 1874, in Nebraska; probably very near Clarks. She is their only child known to have survived to adulthood. A brother, Harrie or Harry Hartwell, is listed with the family, in the 1885 Merrick County, Nebraska Census, in the Village of Clarks, and Harrie, according to this record, was 10 months old. The Sexton's records for Fairview Cemetery, which is located northeast of Clarks, lists Harry Hartwell, son of J.C. and M.E. Hartwell, age 10 months, 11 days; interred in that cemetery, January 8, 1884. Another interment is listed only as "1884, Hartwell, Infant child of J.C. & M.E. Hartwell". A third recorded interment reads, "Jan. 20, 1899, Mrs. John Hartwell, Age 58". It has been this writer's understanding, however, that Mrs. J.C. Hartwell is buried in the Clarks Cemetery. A small, stone, cross marker there reads, "MARY E. HARTWELL, MAR. 13, 1850, JAN. 17, 1899". There are no markers on any Hartwell graves in the Fairview Cemetery, save the one erected in 1976, in memory of Daisy's grandfather, Calvin Blanchard Hartwell, by some of his descendants and interested parties, as a bi-centennial project. C.B. Hartwell; and his daughter, Laura Jane Hartwell, were originally buried on Junction Ranch, east of Clarks, but, according to Gladys Hartwell, the bodies were later moved to Fairview Cemetery, by her father, A.E. Hartwell. The Hartwell Genealogy says Laura Jane Hartwell was born December 5, 1851, and died in 1867. The 1882 Andreas — Nebraska History says, "The first death (i.e. at Clarks) was that of Jennie Hartwell, in March, 1868." Laura Jane and Jennie Hartwell may be one in the same person.

Daisy Hartwell married Stuart Smart, and had at least one child, Margaret Agnes, born June 25, 1895, according to the Hartwell Genealogy; which also indicates Daisy had a second husband, W.J. Harrigan. Though "Daisy" appears to have been well known by that name, it seems her real name was Marguerite. Merrick County, Nebraska courthouse records indicate Marguerite I. Hartwell married Stuart G. Smart, September 14, 1892. Gladys Hartwell says that Daisy is buried at Hastings, Nebraska. There are descendants of this family. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

HANS MADSEN KOKJER

Hans Madsen Kokjer, was born February 20, 1857, on the farm, "Krathuset", near Kolding, Denmark, son of Soren Madsen Kokjer (1815-1890), and Mette Kristine Hansdatter (1827-1901). He received his early education in the village school, and was confirmed in the Danish Lutheran Church.

In the Spring of 1874, Hans came to America; traveled to Iowa, and apprenticed to a blacksmith at Clinton or Charlotte; becoming a master mechanic at blacksmithing and wagonmaking. Hans arrived at Clarksville, Nebraska, in 1879, and in company with John Spelman, built a blacksmith shop. He later purchased Spelman's interest, and in 1883, was joined in the shop by two brothers, from Denmark, Madsen and Jordan. They resided with Hans as late as June, 1885, . and helped Hans build and complete a new home in Clarks, about 1883-4; Madsen being a carpenter. In 1894, Hans sold his interest in the blacksmith shop, which also did wagonwork, repair work and handled farm implements, to Madsen, his brother and partner. Hans went on the road for the Austin Western Co., Ltd., selling road machinery and a line of contractors supplies; traveling to as many as sixteen to eighteen states yearly, before retiring, in 1915.



Hans and Maline Kokjer

At Clarks, Hans Kokjer was elected to the first town board; a charter member of the Masonic Lodge, in Clarks; a supporter of the Clark Congregational Church; instrumental in helping organize the "Clarks Cornet Band", in the 1880's; a constant booster for educational attainments and shared in "securing adequate school equipment for the growing city of Clarks." He helped see that all five of his children attended the State University, at Lincoln. Three sons were in the service during World War I. For about 20 years, he was on the State Agricultural Committee for the Nebraska State Fair.

Hans married Malina Alice Hartwell, at Clarks, at her brother, J.C. Hartwell's residence, June 26, 1883. "Lina" was born August 28, 1857, at Allenville (Allendale?), Missouri, daughter of the C.B. Hartwells. She came, with her parents, to the Clarks area, at age 8, and lived on Junction Ranch. At that time, their nearest neighbor eastwards was seven miles and westward, ten miles, and the nearest postoffice was Columbus, but, records a 1912 CLARKS ENTERPRISE article, "they did not lack for company, for numerous freight trains (i.e. wagons), together with Mormons and gold hunters were continually passing, and Pawnee Indians were camped nearby the greater part of the year." Lina helped at the trading post there; attended the University at Lincoln, before her marriage, and was a member of the Clarks Congregational Church. Her obituary notes: "She loved music and for many years it was the custom of the church choir to meet in her home and before leaving, to sing her mother's favorite songs." Her mother, Elizabeth Hartwell, resided with the Kokjer family from about 1886, until her death, in 1916.

Hans and Lina had five children: Meta Elizabeth (Mrs. J.W. Key), Ralph LeRoy, Hans Madsen, Thomas Edgar, and Harold Emerson. After Mrs. Kokjer's death, February 18, 1920, Hans returned to Denmark, after 47, years, to visit relatives, in 1921. Mr. Kokjer continued an active life until passing away in his sleep, at his brother, Jordan's , home, in Avoca, Nebraska, November 20, 1932. Mr. and Mrs . Kokjer are buried in the Clarks Cemetery. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

META ELIZABETH KOKJER

Meta Elizabeth Kokjer, was born in Clarks, Nebraska, July 17, 1884, in her parents' new home, and was a lifetime member of the Clarks community and the Clarks Congregational Church. She was the oldest child of Hans Madsen Kokjer (1857-1932), a native of Kolding, Denmark, who came to Clarks in 1879, and Sarah Malina Alice Hartwell (1857-1920), and a granddaughter of the C.B. Hartwell's, who came to Nebraska Territory in 1862, and settled on Junction Ranch east of Clarks in 1865, being the first permanent settlers in the Clarks area.

Meta came from a family who were strong supporters of education and recalled that her mother had studied while herding cattle on horseback. Graduating from Clarks High School in 1903, Meta attended her 75th High School Class Reunion in 1978. She attended the University of Nebraska and subsequently studied music at Oberlin, Ohio. Up until a few months before her death, she played piano for chapel services at the Methodist Home, in Holdrege, Nebraska where she spent the last several years of her life.

January 18, 1911, Meta married John William Key. They spent their entire married life on his farm southwest of Clarks, which his parents, Thomas (1838-1925) and Ann (Smith) Key (1841-1907), purchased in 1881, after arriving from Quarrington, England. Two daughters, Marjorie and Dorothy, were born to them.



"Will and Meta Kokjer Key"

"Will" Key, was born July 5, 1882, in a sod house on his parents' farm. He was widely known for the Hampshire hogs he raised, and took pride in his fine driving horses. Will contracted lockjaw and suffered a stroke in 1919, resulting in his loss of speech and a partial paralysis of his right side, but continued his farm work as he was able.

After Mr. Key's death, March 26, 1936, Meta moved to Clarks, and there gave countless piano lessons. She resided in Clarks until a broken hip forced her to go to the home in Fullerton in 1968, where she remained until returning home to Clarks in 1972; being at that time 88 years of age. While at Fullerton the same hip had to be repinned after the original pin was broken. Another fall at home, in 1976, broke her other hip and she was brought to Holdrege, where her granddaughter, Shirley Kelly, was residing. She was 92 — some believed that she would not live. The doctors seemed to be sure, at least, that she would never walk again, but she took up residence at the Home and was soon walking, at first with the aid of a walker, later with a cane and even at times walked with no help at all.

Meta passed away at the Home in Holdrege, Sunday evening, March 16, 1980. Very active until a short time before her death, she made a sudden turnabout in the middle of February and was permanently confined to bed February 15. She continued to recognize people up until her death and was able, at most times, to carry on some conversation.

To settle her estate the Key Farm was sold, effective March, 1981. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

DOROTHY KEY HALLETT

I was born May 10, 1919 to John William and Meta Elizabeth Kokjer Key in Clarks, Nebraska. We lived on a farm southwest of Clarks until my father passed away in 1936. My mother and I then moved to the town of Clarks. I attended school in Clarks and graduated from high school in 1937. Then I attended Nebraska Central College for two years in Central City, Nebraska. I taught school for three years — two being in a rural school in Nance County and Merrick County, and one year in the town school of Belgrade. I gave up the teaching profession and went to work in Grand Island, Nebraska, for an Auto Supply Store as a bookkeeper and then on to Omaha, Nebraska where I worked for Civil Service. I married Ernest F. Hallett, Jr., from Artesian, South Dakota in June, 1944. He was in the Air Force and remained until he retired in 1961. We had one child — Sharon Kay Hallett, now Monnich. Most of our time with the Air Force was spent in Texas and California. Ernest, after retiring from the Air Force, worked at Mare Island Shipyard in Vallejo, California, as a guard and retired from there in 1971. I am working for the municipal court in San Rafael, California, where I have been employed since 1964. Our daughter, Sharon Kay, is married and lives in Sonoma, California. We have two grandchildren, Stefanie Ann Monnich, 9, and Matthew James Monnich, 3. We are presently living in Marin County, which is just north of the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco. *Submitted by Dorothy A. Hallett*

SHARON HALLETT MONNICH

Sharon Kay Hallett Monnich was born May 22, 1945, at Grand Island, Nebraska we lived at my grandmother's house, Mrs. Meta Key, in Clarks until September '45, when we went to join my father, Ernest F. Hallett Jr., who was in the Air Force at Langley Field, Virginia. When my father went to Korea, I lived at my grandmother's in Clarks where I started to school. Mrs Velma McLean was my first teacher. Classmates of mine were Rick and Robert Strickland, Mike Bittinger, Romona Gates, and Sheila Graves. My aunt, Mrs. Leonard Church, lived a block from the school, where I stopped on my way home from school. My cousins Robert, Shirley, and Patricia went to Clarks High School during that time. When I left Clarks I went to Texas to live, and attended school there until we moved to California in October, 1954. I spent seven months in Japan in '59 and '60, where I went to school, and then returned to California where I graduated from Novato High School in 1963. I attended College of Marin, worked at the Stock Exchange in San Francisco and at Fairchild Semi-Conductor in San Rafael. Sept. 7, 1968 I married Gary Monnich of Sonoma, California. We bought our first house the summer before we were married in Sonoma, and in 1973 we built a new house in East Sonoma where we presently reside. We have two children. Stefanie Ann was born October 4, 1971, and Matthew James was born November 16, 1977. We are interested in refurbishing old cars and at present have a '40 Ford Sedan, '34 Ford 2-door Sedan and a '65 Mustang. In 1979 in July, we spent a week in Nebraska where we celebrated my uncle and aunt's 50th Wedding Anniversary. (Marjorie and Leonard Church). We also celebrated my grandma's (Mrs Meta Key) 95th birthday. All of the family were together for these occasions. At present, our daughter Stefanie goes to St. Francis Catholic Church and is in the 3rd grade, my husband Gary works for P. G. & E., and I am a housewife taking care of Matthew James.
Submitted by: Dorothy A. Hallett

RALPH LeROY KOKJER

Ralph LeRoy Kokjer ("known as Roy to his family and close friends"), was born in Clarks, Nebraska, June 4, 1886, and grew up there. He graduated from Clarks High School, with the same class as his older sister, Meta, in 1903, and made his home with the family in Clarks, until leaving for college in 1904.

"The things that he talked about that stand out in my mind are the pies that his Grandmother Hartwell used to bake every day and how he used to take his little brother, Emerson, swimming in the Platte River," recalled his daughter, Jean.

In 1908 Roy graduated from the University of Nebraska "with an engineering degree and went to Cheyenne, Wyoming, to serve his apprenticeship in the shops for the railroad. While there he met Helen Lovell who was to become his wife." Roy and Helen were married in Long Beach, California ("where her folks were living at the time") on September 20, 1911. They built a home in Omaha, Nebraska, "where he was a machineshop foreman for the Union Pacific Railroad". Their two sons, Ralph LeRoy Jr. and Donald Emerson, "were quite young when the family moved to Novato, California (they thought Ralph Sr. was in poor health, but found out after they got to California that it was a bad tooth) and went into partnership with Helen's stepfather on a chicken ranch. In Novato they had a little girl, Jean Helen, and when she was 18 months old they moved to Larkspur, California, and bought a hardware store."

"When World War II started a call went out for machinists and so," Jean says, "Dad went to work at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California." Vallejo was Mr. and Mrs. Kokjer's home the remaining years of their lives. They were very active in Masonic and Eastern Star affairs and were state officers in 1961. Mrs. Kokjer died in 1969.

Roy, as seems to be so typical of the Kokjer Family, was never one to sit on the sidelines of life. One accomplishment, of which he rightfully proud, was the passing of his California drivers exam at the age of *88!* He was somewhat bothered towards the end of his life by failing eyesight, which did affect such things as his woodworking hobby, but it by no means "benched" him.

Meta, Roy's older sister, died March 16, 1980, and he a short time later on May 14, 1980. They had, for a number of years, been the two oldest living descendants of early Clarks' pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Hartwell. Their younger brother, H. Emerson Kokjer, of Wahoo, Nebraska, the sole surviving member of the Hans and Malina (Hartwell) Kokjer Family, died July 25, 1981. *Compiled and written by: Thomas E. Kelly; with recollections by Mrs. Jack (Jean Kokjer) Strickler*



Ralph LeRoy Kokjer

HANS MADSEN KOKJER JR.



Hans and Shy Cobb Kokjer — 1967

Son of Hans Madsen Kokjer (1857-1932) and Malina Hartwell (1857-1920)

Hans Jr. was the third child and second son born (10 February 1888) into the Kokjer family, a family whose character has been described as honest, industrious and intelligent.

Hans grew up in Clarks, played on the high school basketball team, and following his graduation from Clarks High School in 1907, attended the University of Nebraska. Hans did not join the fraternity when his friends founded the Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter because it was too expensive. An unnecessary expense to a young man supporting himself. Nearly forty years later his friends made it possible for him to become a member and a supportive alumnus.

During a summer between college terms while working at the hospital in Kearney, Hans met a nurse called Shy (Charlotte Cobb) who became his wife in 1917. One son, Madsen Cobb, but nicknamed "Ty" after ball player Ty Cobb, was born to them 23 December 1919.

Hans served in the infantry during World War I before returning to Kearney where he taught as well as served as one of three officials of the Boys Training School. He also went into business in Kearney for several years, owning a grocery store.

Hans and Shy bought and operated the Hyannis Hotel in Hyannis, Nebraska (which was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973) for several years, and a hotel in Holdrege which was renamed Hotel Madsen, in 1946, for their son Ty. Though trained as an Air Force pilot, Ty fought with the infantry on Bataan when planes became scarce after the destruction of Pearl Harbor. He was captured but escaped from the Death March and hid out for 8 months before being recaptured. During those 8 months Ty kept a daily diary which was returned to his parents after the war ended. Ty died 12 February 1945 in a prison camp in Japan and is buried in the U.S. military cemetery in Manila.

After his retirement Hans and Shy Kokjer lived in Funk, Nebraska in her old family home, until his death 17 March 1969.

Hans Madsen Kokjer Jr. was a Master Mason and a 50 years member of the Masonic lodge in Clarks.

Charlotte Cobb Kokjer b. 17 July 1898, d. 16 June 1972, m. 10 April 1917.

Hans Madsen Kokjer Jr., b. 10 November 1888 Clarks, Nebraska, d. 17 March 1969. *Compiled and submitted by: Janet Kokjer Sothan*

THOMAS EDGAR KOKJER

Thomas Edgar Kokjer, was born December 18, 1891, in Clarks, Nebraska, fourth child and third son of Hans and Malina (Hartwell) Kokjer. He graduated from Clarks High School, in May, 1910, and spent the next year working for his Uncle Matt Kokjer, in his implement business in Clarks. Later, Tom's wife, Isabel, would recall that the older children, Meta, Roy and Hans, had preceeded him in school and Tom "felt Dad Kokjer needed some financial help".

Tom's Uncle Matt had come to the United States from Denmark with another uncle, Matt's brother, Jordan Kokjer, in 1883, both to join Tom's father, Hans, in the blacksmith and wagon-making shop he was operating in Clarks. Jordan, in writing about his plans to go the United States says: "My elder brother, Madsen ("Matt") desired to go along. He had served three years as apprentice with a good house builder and cabinet maker so was well trained in mason and woodwork." After they arrived in Clarks, Matt helped Tom's father build a fine, new two-story house in town. Matt later bought his brother's share in the shop, and continued, selling farm implements.



Thomas Edgar Kokjer

Tom Kokjer then attended the University of Nebraska, and graduated in 1915. He worked for the U.S. Government on a soil-surveying and map-making project near Crawford, Nebraska, and later farmed with his brother-in-law, Will Key. World War I saw him enlist in the Army Air Corps; he was sent to the University of California at Berkeley for ground school training; completing that he was a pilot and was sent to Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas, as an instructor. Toward the end of his work there, he and a student had a plane crash. He was badly injured, one leg crushed, and spent four years in Army hospitals.

July 13, 1921, Tom married Isabel Hawkins, of Helena, Montana, an Army Reconstruction Aid. After leaving the hospital and the Army, the couple went to Alliance, Nebraska, where he was associated with an automobile dealership; living there for eight years.

In 1932, they moved to Sidney , Nebraska, where he acquired an automobile agency, establishing his own business as a Chevrolet dealer. Like his father, Tom was civic minded. In Sidney he served on the city council ten years; was president of the Lions Club and Country Club, as well as being on the original hospital board which made the decision to build; serving on the board until his death. In addition, he was President of The Nebraska State Automobile Association and his name appeared in "Who's Who in Nebraska".

Tom and Isabel had three children: Carter H., a lawyer, Shawnee Mission, Kansas; Thomas L., who is engaged in business in Sidney; and Ann, who married Emerson W. Scott and lives in Buffalo, Wyoming. Each are married and have three children.

Tom Kokjer, died August 11, 1956, and is buried at Sidney, Nebraska. His wife, Isabel, still resides in Sidney. *Submitted by Mrs. Thomas E. Kokjer and Thomas E. Kelly*

H. EMERSON KOKJER

Son of Hans Madsen Kokjer (1857-1932) and Malina Hartwell (1857-1920)

Emerson was the youngest of five children born (18 November 1898) into the Kokjer family in Clarks. "We learned responsibility in a strongly patriotic family." There was a flag, "The biggest I ever saw," that hung from the trees every holiday. It hung between two big trees and nearly touched the ground.

Emerson believes in the firm family background. It taught loyalty, gave stability and encouraged hard honest work. His chores of chopping kindling, carrying coal clinkers to the alley and milking the family cow were his contribution to the shared responsiblities of a three generation family of eight. His father believed in good honest labor and taught, "No matter what you do, do the best you can and give a little more than they expect of you." "In those regular ten hour days plus overtime, a lot was expected, too."

"We had a strict religious upbringing in the Congregational Church." There were Kokjers as minister, treasurer and pianist. We had Sunday School, church and a young peoples program (Christian Endeavor) in the afternoon. There was time for fun too. "I learned to swim in the Platte River in the swimming hole." All of the family played cribbage (but not on Sunday) and pitched horseshoes.

Thrift was another quality instilled into the family. "We were probably poor but I never felt poor or put upon because I didn't have what everyone else had." Emerson earned money doing what a young boy could. For 5 cents a week he took the neighbors cow to and from the pasture each day along with the family's cow. Emerson spent very little money. He had a bank account for a college fund. "I always "knew" I was going to college at the University of Nebraska." Education was important. The college fund covered the first year and Emerson earned the rest of his education through summer jobs and serving as a steward and pressing clothes at the fraternity. His college education was interrupted by World War I. He joined the army artillery, becoming a radio sergeant and served in Hawaii and France.



H. Emerson Kokjer — 1921-22

When Emerson returned to his studies, a blind date introduced him to Winifred Clark. After graduation with a degree in law and the first years experience in law practice, Emerson married Winifred on 10 December 1924 and established Wahoo as their home town. There are two daughters, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren from this union.

Emerson's career has included the practice of law in Wahoo from 1922- 1939, serving as city attorney for 13 years and mayor one term; Judge of the District Court 1947-1971; and over five years in the Supreme Court as court reporter, editing and publishing its opinions. Since his retirement, Emerson has remained in Wahoo.

H. Emerson Kokjer is a Master Mason and 50 years member of the Masonic lodge in Clarks and Wahoo. He remains active in the Shrine.

H. Emerson Kokjer died July 25, 1981, from an illness that only he knew anything about, until shortly before his death. He and his wife are buried at Wahoo, Nebraska. *Compiled and written by Janet Kokjer Sothan with personal quotes from H. Emerson Kokjer*

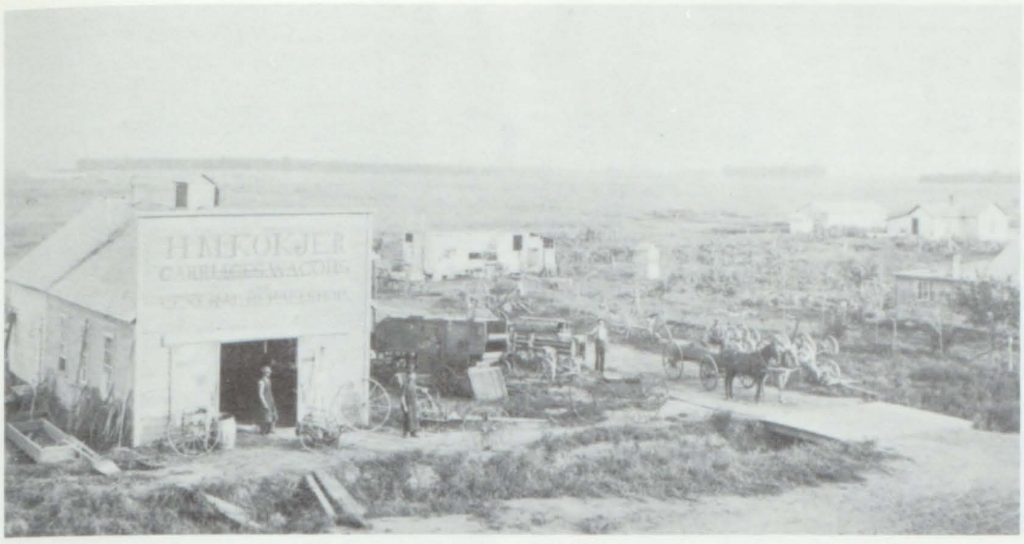
MADS MADSEN KOKJER

Mads Madsen Kokjer, was born December 13, 1860, near Kolding, Denmark, son of Soren Madsen Kokjer and Mette Kristine Hansdatter. In Denmark, after the common schooling, he served three years apprenticeship "with a good house builder and cabinet maker". Several pieces of his fine workmanship still exist.

In 1883, "Matt" or "Madsen", as he was known, accompanied his brother, Jordan, to America. They arrived in Clarks, Nebraska, April 5, to join their brother, Hans, in his shop. With them came the wedding dress their sister, Marie, had made for Hans' bride-to-be, a dress donated to the Nebraska State Historical Society, for display, June 18, 1977.

Matt spent his first year in Clarks working with John Dustman, building a new house for Hans. He worked on several others and subsequently became the woodworker at the H.M. KOKJER, CARRIAGES, WAGONS AND GENERAL REPAIR SHOP, which stood south and adjacent to Highway 30, in east Clarks. "In 1893-94, Madsen journeyed by train to see the West, stopping to work near Salt Lake City and various places in California". Hans sold Matt his interest in the shop, at Clarks, in 1894; Matt continued, selling farm implements and machinery, until retirement. Matt erected a new cement block building, after the original shop burned in 1911.

August 28, 1901, Mads Madsen Kokjer, married Lucy Rosetta DuBois, at Olathe, Kansas. "Rose"



Kokjer Blacksmith Shop — 1880's

was born July 30, 1869, daughter of Hubbard Mitchell DuBois and Lucy Anne Hartwell (oldest child of C.B. and Elizabeth Hartwell). Rose first became acquainted with Matt, while staying with her Aunt "Lina" Kokjer, and attending Clarks High School.

The Kokjer's made their home in a house Matt had built in Clarks. They joined the Clarks Congregational Church, and Matt served as its treasurer 28 years. His obituary notes that, "As a token of confidence and appreciation, he was elected to that office for life." Matt was a member of the Masons and Eastern Star, and held offices in those for many years. His obituary continues:

"For several years he served on the township board. He was elected, re-elected and served on the town's board for many years".

"He was a helpful member on the Clarks Board of Education for 13 years, serving as treasurer. Many of the Public improvements in the town and community have been realized during his considerate and well- meaning services".

Matt and Jordan Kokjer were both members of the early Clarks Cornet Band.

The "Kokjer Relatives" remarks that Matt "was tall and thin and his sparse conversation always carried a Danish accent. Everyone respected Madsen and enjoyed his dry humor". The obituary closes, "Active to the very last; clear in mind and firm in faith in the Eternal Madsen Kokjer passed away at his home in Clarks on January 27, 1934". Rose then sold the house in Clarks and returned to Olathe, to live with her sister. Rose died January 10, 1959. Matt and Rose had no children and are buried in the Clarks Cemetery. *Compiled and written by: Thomas E. Kelly*

AMOS EDGAR HARTWELL

Amos Edgar Hartwell, Ed or A. E. as he was always known, was born March 27, 1860, in Worth County, Missouri. He was the youngest child of Calvin Blanchard and Elizabeth (Ragsdale) Hartwell.

As a child, he spent many hours playing with the Pawnee Indian children and he learned to speak their language. Ed and his sister, Malina ("Lina"), used to stand guard over the goods on the shelves in their Father's Inn. One day, while their Father was gone, the Indians cleaned out all the shelves. When C. B. returned, he went to the Indians and they returned everything. Ed used to say that, "Even a good Indian would steal".

Once, when the U. S. Cavalry stopped at Junction Ranch, enroute to Fort Kearny, they wanted to buy watermelons. When C. B. said he had none to sell, they destroyed melons and many other garden products. However, C. B. told an officer about it and payment was taken from their wages. He always said, "He'd rather see the Indians come than the Army." He knew what to expect with the Indians.

Ed attended school and could relate interesting anecdotes about those years all his life. Later he attended the University Academy in Lincoln, Nebraska and was there when his Father died in 1878. The running of the place was his responsibility, so he returned home to be with his Mother. Calvin Blanchard deeded it to him, provided he would care for his Mother as long as she lived. It was a real responsibility since Elizabeth lived to be nearly 97 years old before she died in 1916.

Ed farmed the place until he sold it in 1903 so that his children could attend the Clarks Public Schools. All of them, except the daughter, Ruth, who passed away in infancy, and his invalid son, Merwyn, who was unable to go, graduated from the Clarks High School.



Children of A. E. Hartwell — 1953
L-r — Laura, Carl, Gladys, Dick, Mary, Edgar.

Ed was married to Ruth Antoinette (Nettie) Richardson, of Grand Island, Nebraska, May 4, 1887. She was the daughter of E.A. and Laura (Daly) Richardson. To this union eight children were born as follows: Edgar E., died 1965; Mary A.; Laura E.; Merwyn A., died 1915; Gladys E.; Ruth M., died 1895; R. Richardson; and Carl Blanchard. All the children, except Ed, Ruth and Merwyn, graduated from college; all except Gladys, who graduated from Kearney State, at the University of Nebraska. The three girls were teachers in Nebraska public schools until they retired. Ed was a government mail clerk on the Union Pacific railroad; Dick was a Bell telephone employee (accountant); and Carl was a Kresge store employee.

Ed Hartwell and his wife moved to Lincoln, Nebraska in August, 1934, where Ed passed away August 1, 1935, and his wife, August 21, 1935, after a long and useful life. *Submitted by Gladys Hartwell*

E.E. HARTWELL

E.E. ("Ed") Hartwell, oldest son of A.E. Hartwell, married Olna Yelton in Omaha, Nebraska. They had three children: Richard Russell, who lives in Bridgeport, Connecticut; Helen Flodelle lives in Dallas, Texas; and Ruth Ellen in Los Altos, California. All are married.

"Ed" was a friend of everybody. He met a man in Missouri one time who hadn't heard from his father in Omaha for a long time. He was concerned and asked Ed to hunt him up for him and tell him to write to his son. With no more than a name to go on, Ed located the man and he wrote to his son.

After he had graduated from high school, he worked several years for the S.A. Foster Lumber Co. at Clarks. During this time he found a spot in the lumber yard where he raised radishes for the family. He was a government mail clerk (Omaha and Ogden) on the Union Pacific until he retired at 70 years old. He was always on hand to help any member of the family as well as everyone else who needed it.

Ed died in 1965, age 76. The second brother, Merwyn, died at age 26. *Submitted by Gladys Hartwell*

MARY A. HARTWELL

Mary A. Hartwell was the oldest daughter of A.E. and Ruth Antoinette Hartwell. She was a very determined youngster; a trait she still possesses. No one can make her change once she has made up her mind. She is now the oldest living member of the C.B. Hartwell Family. Meta (Kokjer) Key and Roy Kokjer held that position until they died in 1980. Roy's death followed Meta's by a few months.

Mary is very alert. She taught Math and Latin in Nebraska schools for 45½ years and she was a graduate of the Nebraska University in Lincoln. *Submitted by Gladys Hartwell*

LAURA ELIZABETH HARTWELL

Laura Elizabeth Hartwell, the second daughter of A.E. Hartwell, is a workaholic. She is happiest when she is working or taking a daily walk. She graduated from the University and taught primary grades in Nebraska Public Schools for 45 years.

Although she has had a broken hip and a skull fracture, she continues to garden every year. She will be 87 years old January 15, 1981.

Ruth Malina, the next daughter, died at 6 months and is buried in Fairview Cemetery, north of Clarks, Nebraska. *Submitted by Gladys Hartwell*

GLADYS EUGENIA HARTWELL

Gladys Eugenia Hartwell, was born on the old Hartwell farm in 1898; attended the Clarks Public Schools and graduated from high school in 1916. She taught two years in Merrick Co. rural schools and 14 years in the primary grades of Crete, Nebraska.

The year her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Hartwell, passed away (1935), she went back to Kearney State College to work toward her degree. She graduated from there in 1937.

In 1940 she went to teaching commercial subjects in high school. It wasn't until 1972 that she quit school work entirely after 38 years of teaching and many years as a substitute teacher.

Mary, Laura and Gladys Hartwell all live in Omaha, Nebraska. *Submitted by Gladys Hartwell*

ROBERT RICHARDSON HARTWELL

Robert Richardson Hartwell, "Dick" as his friends knew him, was born in 1900, son of Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Hartwell. He attended the Clarks Public Schools and graduated in 1917. After a year at home,he attended the Nebraska University from which he graduated. He then went to work for the Bell Telephone Company in Omaha. He continued working for "Ma" Bell until he retired. He had the awesome title of Disbursements Accounts Supervisor at that time.

Dick continued to be in fairly good health until his death, at age 80, February 9, 1981. His wife, the former Mabel Hargrove, died many years ago. Dick never remarried. *Submitted by Gladys Hartwell*

CARL BLANCHARD HARTWELL

Carl Blanchard Hartwell had the same initials as his Grandfather, Calvin Blanchard Hartwell. The tradition has continued with Carl's son, Clinton Blanchard Hartwell, who in turn named his son

Corey Blanchard Hartwell, a fourth generation C.B. Hartwell.

Carl was the last of the A.E. Hartwell family to attend the Clarks Public Schools, where he graduated in 1921. He remained at home for a year; then attended and graduated from the University of Nebraska. Carl always was a family boy, and he was happy with any or all the other family members.

Upon graduation from the University, he went to work for the Kresge Co. in Evanston, Illinois. Carl married Blanche Phillips in Alton, Illinois. He was manager of the Kresge Store in New Albany, Indiana at the time of the big Ohio River flood. His store was 12 feet under water. Only the goods stored in the waterproof basement were saved. Later he managed stores in Anderson, Indiana and Fort Wayne. He then went to Detroit as their jewelry salesman.

Carl Blanchard Hartwell and his wife retired to Peoria, Arizona. *Submitted by Gladys Hartwell*

DANIEL JAMES HATHAWAY



Hathaway Family — 1961

At the age of eighteen, Daniel James Hathaway came to Merrick County, in 1905, with his parents, James and Ella Hathaway from Harrison County, Iowa. He farmed with his father on the home place north of Central City until 1921 when he joined his sister and brother-in-law, Hattie and Victor Leeson, and their family in a move to Alberta, Canada. They made the trip in a Reo Speedwagon Truck, having shipped machinery, household effects, and livestock by rail. Dan farmed in the Brooks, Alberta, area a few years then went on north to homestead a farm near the Lesser Slave Lake, near the Athabasca River. Through the years, while living near Hondo, he spent considerable time trapping. He also worked in the construction of the Alcan Highway, and worked in the oilfields in British Columbia. Dan never married. He was born October 19, 1887, at Missouri Valley, Iowa, and is now a spry 93-year old resident in a home for senior citizens in Brooks, Alberta, Canada. *Submitted by Donald Beck*

JAMES & ELLA HATHAWAY

In the year 1905 Mr. and Mrs. James Blair Hathaway, with their only son Dan and their two youngest daughters, Julia and Eva, came from Missouri Valley, Harrison County, Iowa, to live on a 400-acre farm six miles north and one mile west of Central City. They had purchased land near Hawley, Minnesota, and planned to move there. They apparently chose Merrick County upon recommendation of Mr. Wolcott, an acquaintance who had already moved his family here. Soon the Hathaways' three daughters who had married in Iowa, with their husbands and children, were living nearby. They were Hattie and Victor Leeson, Myrtle and Joseph Kidwiler, and Mabel and William Wingate. The eldest daughter, Edna, had died young and is buried in Old Town Cemetery near Missouri Valley, Iowa. The younger daughters married locally — Julia to Leslie Beck and Eva to Lee Ferris.

James Hathaway was born April 2, 1838, in Vermillion County, Indiana. At the age of nineteen he commenced steamboating on the Ohio River and continued about three years. He moved to Freeport, Illinois, and there worked for a man named Getteau, whose son later assassinated President Garfield. In October, 1861, at Rock Run, Illinois, James enlisted in Company B, 46th Illinois Infantry . He marched with this unit to Ft. Henry which fell the sixth of February, 1862; to Ft. Donelson, Tennessee, from February 12 to 16; and on to Pittsburgh Landing, Tennessee. Soon after the Battle of Shilo, James was discharged on account of disability. He spent further time steamboating, then on October 7, 1864, enlisted in Battery H, Illinois Light Artillery, at Dixon, Illinois. He participated in the battle of Nashville December 15 and 16, 1864. After an honorable discharge July 29, 1865, he retured to Freeport, Illinois, then in 1867 went to Harvin County, Iowa, where he met Ella Elizabeth Bird whom he married on December 25, 1873. Ella was a descendant of Thomas Bird who came from England to Hartford, Connecticut, in 1644 or earlier; also, of Thomas Barber who came from England in 1635 and whose wife was the first white woman to land in Connecticut. Ella was born January 28, 1848, to Ebenezer M. and Eliza Barney Bird at Dowagiac, Michigan, and moved with her family to Hardin County, Iowa, in 1865. She was a member of the first graduating class at Ellsworth College in Iowa Falls, and taught school before her marriage.

James and Ella lived in Council Grove, Kansas, about a year but returned to Iowa. Around 1880 they purchased the farm in Harrison County which was bordered on the west by the Missouri River a mile distant from the homestead. The river was only one-half mile away when the family left, and it finally claimed the entire farm, that spot now being in the Desota Bend Wildlife Refuge.

The Hathaways resided on their Merrick County farm until they died, James at 89 in 1927, and Ella at 93 in 1941. They are buried in Burke Cemetery. *Submitted by Donald Beck*



Hathaway Descendants — 1945

HENRY HEATON FAMILY

Henry Heaton was born Sept. 14, 1829, in County Meath, Ireland. Henry, who was a small man, worked as a stableman for an Englishman, Lord Hill. He fell in love with their daughter Elizabeth. They eloped and her parents disowned her. Henry and Elizabeth were married in St. Ann's Cathedral, Dublin, Ireland, October 30, 1849. They left Ireland and traveled to Canada, where they lived for a number of years. Elizabeth died in Canada. Their children were Stephen, Maria, and Margaret.

On July 3, 1866, Henry married Ann Conway, a native of Dungannon, Tyrone County, Ireland, who had emigrated to Montreal, Canada. Three children were born in Montreal; Frank, August 18, 1867, Patrick, January 22, 1869, and Mary Ann, May 20, 1870.

On June 1, 1871, Henry and Ann, Margaret, Maria, Frank, Patrick and Mary Ann arrived at Lone Tree, Nebraska. Stephen had come to Nebraska a few years earlier at the age of 18, to work on the construction of railroads and bridges.

On July 5th, just one month after their arrival, the home in which the Heaton family was living was destroyed by a tornado that struck Lone Tree. All of their clothing, furniture etc. were "gone with the wind" — also a trunk load of very valuable books.

Henry and Ann homesteaded on timber claim #82 in 1873 seven miles north of Lone Tree. The first two years Indians were the only neighbors as they were only a few miles from the Pawnee Indian Reservation. Their first home was a sod house. They later built a frame house to accommodate their growing family.



Henry Heaton House — 100 years later

The accompanying picture taken in 1977 by a great-great- granddaughter, Chris Whetstone, shows the hundred-year-old house still occupied.

Henry and Ann remained on the farm for many years, enduring the hardships familiar to all Nebraska pioneers: drought, grasshoppers, prairie fires, tornadoes, and the blizzards of 1873 and 1888.

Children born to Henry and Ann after their arrival in Nebraska were:

Henry, July 17, 1872, died March 11, 1957, Seattle, Washington. Thomas, July 12, 1874, died September 1937, Emo, Ontario, Canada. James, November 16, 1875, died March 14, 1890, Central City, Nebraska. Esther, July 12, 1877 died June 16, 1923, Grand Island, Nebraska. Henry was killed by an unknown assailant on Thanksgiving night November 27, 1902 at Central City. Ann died May 31, 1922 in Central City. *Submitted by Mary Powell Placke*

PATRICK S. HEATON FAMILY

Patrick's father, Henry, born September 14, 1829, in Culmulen County, Ireland, married an English Lord's daughter, Elizabeth, October 30, 1849. In 1851, they and their son Stephen left Ireland and settled in Smith Falls, Canada, where daughters Maria and Margaret were born. Elizabeth died in Canada.



Patrick S. Heaton

Henry moved to Montreal and July 3, 1866, married Ann Conway who was born in Tyrone County, Ireland, March 24, 1838. They, with their children Maria, Margaret, Frank, Mary Ann, and Patrick (born January 22, 1869) arrived in Lone Tree, Nebraska, June 1, 1871, to join Henry's son Stephen. Henry was wearing a broadcloth suit, Prince Albert coat, and high silk hat. Ann was garbed as the wife of such a Beau Brummel, and the children were wearing velvet suits. Their total assets consisted of clothing, a trunk load of very valuable books, and $1.00.

One month after their arrival, the "Great Tornado of 1871" struck Lone Tree, and the family was left destitute.

In 1873, Henry established a homestead a few miles from the Pawnee Indian Reservation. For the first two years, the Indians were the only neighbors. Thomas, James, and Esther were born in Lone Tree. Henry, a local judge, was murdered November 27, 1902. His body was found near the railroad tracks in Central City.

June 2, 1898, Patrick married Ada Hunscote Kombrink, who was born in Warwickshire, England August 23, 1872. Shortly after her birth, her mother died and relatives brought her to Silver Creek, and later to Central City where she was reared by the Rudolph Kombrink family. Their children: Gertrude, Mrs. Ray Clinton, born June 24, 1899, resides in Lincoln, Nebraska. Frances, September 17, 1901-November 5, 1975. Buried Washington, D.C. Henry, February 16, 1903-May 10, 1974. Buried Denver, Colorado. Patrick, born March 17, 1904, resides in Sidney, Nebraska. Mary, Mrs. Emil Hruze, born August, 20, 1909, resides in Grand Island, Nebraska. Joseph and Ada died in infancy.

Patrick was admitted to the bar in 1894, and served as Merrick County Judge from 1896-1909 and 1915-1917, when he entered private practice. Totally devoted to Merrick County, its citizens and its history, he was active in the county and state historical societies, many community organizations, and St. Michael's Parish. Because of his interest in the early history of Merrick County and Lone Tree, he planted a cottonwood tree at the site of the Lone Tree monument. His grandchildren have vivid memories of helping Grandpa carry buckets of water to the tree.

Before Ada's marriage, she taught in the Central City schools. She, also, was devoted to her home, her church and community, participating in the activities of their organizations. She served many years on the library board.

Ada died July 16, 1944. Patrick died March 18, 1953. Both are buried in Central City.

Following in their father's footsteps, his three sons became lawyers. Before her marriage, Gertrude was employed in the Central City National Bank. Like her mother, Mary also taught in the Central City schools and served as County Superintendent of Merrick County.

Our parents instilled in us a love of church and community. Although we have scattered to other parts of the state and nation, Central City has always been home. *Submitted by Mary Heaton Hruza*

GEORGE E. HEDGES FAMILY

The history of the Hedges family in Merrick County began in 1908 when George E. Hedges bought a farm located three miles west of Central City and just south of the Ormsby Road.

George E. came from Illinois to Lancaster County in 1876 when he was five or six years old with his father, David, mother, Eliza, three sisters and two brothers. The David Hedges family, Beachs, Pinneys, Shores, Halls, Knights (Bill, whom Merrick County and Chapman adopted) and many others, broke sod to make homes, schools, and churches in Lancaster County. In 1896 John (George's youngest brother) married Ella Mae Beach. In 1898 George W. was born to this union. In 1902 George E. met a school teacher by the name of Mae Akesen who was staying with Grandma Beach. They were married in 1903 and lived on the David Hedges farm. In 1905 they lost their only child, a baby boy, when he was six months old. They farmed there until 1908 when they moved to Merrick County.

George and Mae lived in Merrick County until their deaths, both which occurred in 1963. Although George and Mae "retired" from active farming and moved into Central City in 1916, George maintained an interest in farming, owning a number of properties in the county over the years. Mae was prominently active in the Central City Methodist Church and the Central City Women's Club. George served for many years on the Merrick County Fair Board and was a member of the County Selective Service Board during World War II. George was also active in the Horse Club for many years.



George E. and Mae Hedges

Their ties to Lancaster County always remained very close and George E. and Mae Hedges are both buried in Lancaster County. Friends and family came from miles around to visit with "Uncle George and Aunt Mae" on birthdays and other special occasions and especially in November. Hospitality was their greatest pleasure. Pheasant hunts in Merrick County with "Uncle George" were always a great treat and huge success. George hunted with a big gun. He always owned good, big horses so he could "plow a little deeper, farm a little better and haul a bigger load for his neighbor." He was the kind of man who heaped rather than stroked the measure. *Submitted by George Hedges*

GEORGE W. HEDGES FAMILY

George W. Hedges was the son of John J. and Ella Beach Hedges of Waverly. He graduated from University Place High School in Lincoln, attended Nebraska Wesleyan University and Ag College at the University of Nebraska and was a World War I veteran.

George frequently visited his "Uncle George and Aunt Mae" in Central City and in 1923 met Naomi Belle Crawford who later became his wife. Naomi was the youngest daughter of Samuel and Myrtice Hogue Crawford. The Crawfords came to Merrick County in 1892. Naomi graduated from Central City High School in 1923 and was working at the Farmers Union Store and was also a singer in the Methodist choir.

George W. Hedges and Naomi Crawford were married in Central City in 1926. They farmed east of Lincoln until 1935. They moved to a farm west of Waverly where they lived until March of 1943 when they moved, with their five boys, to the George E. Hedges farm west of Central City. They lived on the same farm until Naomi died in 1967. George later retired from active farming and moved into Central City .

During their years on the farm, the entire family was always very active in the Fairview Methodist Church community in addition to school activities. In addition to her reputation as a great cook, Naomi was in constant demand for her lovely soprano voice. She was always active in WSCS, the County Extension Service, and served as Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star.

George has served the county and community in many ways. He was a charter member of the Merrick County Weed Board, served on the ASCS board and served as a member of the Merrick County Board of Supervisors for eight years.

George's love for horses and horsemanship served well as he was appointed State Teamster of the Nebraska Bicentennial wagon in the 1976 Freedom Train on its journey to the East from Wyoming to Valley Forge.

All five of the Hedges boys graduated from Central City High School. John graduated from Wesleyn University and is now is California with General Dynamics Corporation as an aircraft engineer. Jerry graduated from Wesleyn University and received a master's degree in sacred music from Union Seminary in New York City. He is now teaching in Oklahoma City. Dale lives in Central City where he works for the U.S . Postal Service. Wayne lives in Central City and is associated with the Safeway Store. Ned graduated from Wesleyn University, received his Master's and Doctorate degrees in English from the University of Nebraska and is presently on the faculty serving as Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs. Four of the boys served in the Armed Forces with Jerry and Dale serving during the Korean Conflict.

George is known as "grandad" to his five boys, five daughters-in-law, fourteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren as well as many other of his young acquaintances. A pony or buggy ride during nice weather or a sleigh ride during the winter has been the delight of many children in the community with "Grandad" at the reins. *Submitted by George Hedges and Mrs Wayne Hedges*



George W. Hedges Family
Back l-r — Wayne, John, Jerry, G. Dale, Ned. **Seated** — Naomi, and George.



Charles Joseph and Ethel Heeney Family

CHARLES J. HEENEY FAMILY

Charles Joseph Heeney was born at Hubbard, Nebraska in 1921. His parents, Charles Benedict Heeney (1888) and Cecilia Mary McGee (1886) were also born at Hubbard. Charles (Joe) had two brothers and one sister. Their ancestors migrated to Nebraska from Ireland with the Father Tracey Colony that settled in (St James) Jackson, Nebraska in 1857.

Ethel Ann Breunig was born at Leigh, Nebraska in 1924. Her parents, Arthur Henry Breunig was born at Rhodes, Iowa 1885 and Anna Keller (1889) was born at Pender, Nebraska. Ethel's paternal grandparents were born in Iowa, her maternal grandparents came to the United States in 1881 from Glatbeck and Clave, Germany. Arthur Breunig owned and operated a hardware and furniture store in Leigh, Nebraska from 1914-1946.

Ethel and Joe both attended Wayne State College, Wayne, Nebraska. They were married June 24, 1944 at Roswell, New Mexico where Joe was stationed with the Air Force. During World War II Joe was a pilot on a B-29 based on Guam where he flew thirty-three missions over Japan. After his discharge in 1945 he returned to Wayne State to finish his education and graduated with a degree in Business Education. He worked for J.M. McDonald Company in Central City, Nebraska from 1946-1950. At that time he moved to Beatrice, Nebraska and managed the J.M. McDonald Store until 1954, at which time he purchased the Nordstedt Clothing Store from Sten Nordstedt in Central City. The store at that time was located at 1617-16th Street. June 1, 1962 the store was moved to the Safeway building at 1601- 16th Street. The Heeneys purchased Besteds (the former Hested Variety Store) in 1975 and still serve the community with both stores.

Charles (Joe) retired from AFRES in 1972 as a Lieutenant Colonel. The Heeneys have six children: *Patricia Ann* was born at Columbus, Nebraska 1945. She graduated from Loretto Heights College, Denver, Colorado 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. She is now living in Alexandria, Minnesota with her husband Dr. Terence James Kennedy and their three sons; Michael Terence, Patrick Joseph and Matthew James.

Mary Margaret was born at Central City, Nebraska in 1945. She graduated from Central City High School in 1968. Graduated from Loretto Heights College in 1972, received her Masters degree in Social Work. She is living in Lincoln, Nebraska, working as a Mental Health Counselor for HMO.

Ann Cecilia was born at Beatrice, Nebraska in 1951. Graduated from Central City High School in 1969. Graduated from College of St. Marys in Omaha, Nebraska in 1975 with a degree in Education. She lives with her husband James Harold Wiederspan and their seventeen month son Mark James in Broken Bow, Nebraska.

Michael Joseph was born at Beatrice, Nebraska in 1952. Graduated from Central High School in 1971. Graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, graduated from Creighton Dental School, Omaha, Nebraska in 1981. He has bought a Dental Practice in Kearney, Nebraska. He and his wife Jody Lynn Vestal are expecting their first child.

Joan Marie was born at Central City, Nebraska in 1956. She graduated from Central City High School in 1974. Graduated from Creighton University College of Business Administration in 1978 and will graduate from Creighton Law School in 1982. She and her husband Timothy Joseph Riddle live in Omaha, Nebraska.

Mark Daniel was born in Central City, Nebraska in 1957. Graduated from Central City High School in 1975. Graduated from Creighton University College of Business Administration in 1979. He is an Insurance Specialist for Mutual of New York Insurance Company. He and his wife, Deborah Ann Donovan live in Omaha, Nebraska. *Submitted by Joe and Ethel Heeney*

KASPAR HEIN FAMILY

Kaspar Hein was born December 14, 1830, in Holstein, Germany. He died November 25, 1895, and is buried in the Grand Island Cemetery. He married Magdalena Thiessen in 1850; she being born March 1, 1829, in Holstein, Germany. She was the daughter of a miller, who had his mill on the Hein Estate. She died July 15, 1926, and is also buried in the Grand Island Cemetery.

Born to them were 9 children.

They immigrated to America in 1868, and located near Chicago, Illinois, where they resided for one year. They came to Grand Island, Nebraska, in 1869, and the following year, located, and homesteaded a farm three miles northwest of Chapman, Nebraska, where they resided many years. The farm is now owned by Joseph Janovec.



Albert and Mela Hein — 65th Anniversary — Sept. 6, 1976

John Henry Hein was born December 31, 1859, in Holstein, Germany, and died June 10, 1928, and is buried in the Chapman Cemetery. He married Athemia Paustian on January, 1886, she being born May 13, 1866, at Laboe, or Probstei, Germany. Her parents were Claus and Antge Stoltenberg Paustian. She died March 2, 1944, and is buried in the Chapman Cemetery.

Born to them were 5 children.

After his parents retired from the homestead, they lived on this farm until 1908, when they purchased a farm southwest of Central City, Nebraska, just west of the "Lone Tree Monument." This farm originally belonged to J.G. Brewer who had Brewer's Mill. They lived there until 1911, when their son, Albert and his bride, Emilie Falldorf took over their residence.

Albert T. Hein was born July 1, 1887, at Casper, Wyoming, and died November 27, 1977, and is buried in the Grand Island Cemetery. He married Emilie Falldorf on September 6, 1911, at Grand Island, Nebraska. She was born January 4, 1888 in Grand Island, the daughter of Henry and Mary Timpke Falldorf, he being a prominent building contractor. At the present time she is living with her daughter, Mrs. Lloyd (Mae) O'Nele, the only child of their marriage.

Mae Hein was born October 27, 1914, at Grand Island, Nebraska, and married Lloyd E. O'Nele, January 4, 1934. He was born to Walter W. and Anna Whistler O'Nele, on July 5, 1912.

They live five miles southeast of Grand Island, on the Friedrich Falldorf homestead, which has been the family for over 100 years.

They are the parents of two sons.

Michael L. O'Nele — born February 24, 1949, is married to Theresa Collins — born October 14, 1951. They have one son, Michael Sean, born March 31, 1973. They live at Green Mountain Falls, Colorado.

James P. O'Nele III — born September 8, 1950, is married to Susan Hecht — born May 11, 1950. They have two sons — James P. IV, born June 14, 1969, and Andrew G. born November 25, 1972. They also, reside on the old Falldorf homestead.

CHARLES HEINEMEYER

Charles Heinemeyer, my father's grandfather on his mother's side, was born in Hanover, Germany, October 29, 1837, and came to America when he was fourteen years old, settling Somerset County, Pennsylvania. He spent his young manhood there.

When the Civil War broke out, he enlisted in Co. B, 113rd. Pennsylvanian Volunteers and served in the Army of the Potomac. He participated in the great battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He was mustered out in 1865, after nearly four years of service.

He came to Polk County, Nebraska, in 1880 and located in the valley in the Beulah neighborhood, where he resided until his death.

He married Miss Lucinda Shank on November, 1862, and to them were born nine children, six boys and three girls. Frank resided in the old home in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Ida Lohr resided in Grand Island, Nebraska, the years of her life. Mrs. Alice Lohr, (my grandmother) lived all her life in Columbus, Nebraska. Albert H. resided on a farm in Beulah, and later lived in Illinois.

William H. resided on a farm in Merrick County, near Clarks. Elmer H. was in the jewelry business in Clarks, and later moved to California. George H. farmed to the home place, later moved about two miles, and resided there until his death. Mrs. Lottie Dake lived at Beulah. Herman H. farmed several years the William Heinemeyer place, and later moved to California.

Mr. Heinemeyer was converted early in life and was a member of the United Brethren Church and helped build the church of that denomination, known as the Beulah Church. He is buried in the Beulah Cemetery. He died May 1, 1906.

Alice Lohr was my grandmother. My father was born in Columbus, Nebraska, March 16, 1892, and spent many summers with his uncle Will Heinemeyer.

He attended District #7, east of Clarks, and graduated from eighth grade from District # 7. He worked for the Union Pacific Railroad for nearly forty years. Upon retiring, they moved to Longville, Minnesota and resided there until his death in May, 1969. *By Mrs. Milton Brunken*

HEINS FAMILY

Fredrick William born November 11, 1846 in Holstein, Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1864 accompanied by his brother Christopher. His parents Christopher and Margaret Ehlers Heins and one other brother and sister came to America two years later. Fredrick William originally settled in Darke County, Ohio near Willowdell but moved to Nebraska in 1884. The other members of his family remained in Ohio. On arrival in Nebraska he purchased a quarter section of land in Merrick County from the Union Pacific Railroad for $640. This area was known as Pleasant Ridge. He later filed a homestead application and timber certificate for additional land. In the early 1900's the Grand Island Daily Independent's "Briefs Around The County" recorded many of the activities and happenings in Pleasant Ridge.

On February 24, 1885 Fredrick was married to Elizabeth Barbara Mader, daughter of Hall county pioneers John F. and Catherine Brehm Mader. They were members of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island from 1885 until their death. They farmed until retirement in 1920 at which time they purchased a home at 718 West 9th Street in Grand Island. The farm has remained in the family and was the site of the National Corn Picking Contest in 1962 when owned by his grandson Fredrick Christopher Heins. Elizabeth Barbara died September 22, 1924 and Fredrick William died on November 21, 1932 at eighty-six years of age.

All seven of the Heins children were born in Merrick County and attended District 32 school. They were:

1. Margaret Belle (June/19/1886-April/7/1962) married Ervin E. Schaupp in 1912. They lived on a farm near Grand Island until 1918 when they moved to Chadron, Nebraska. They raised two daughters.
2. Eva Jane (November/21/1887-October/30/1888). Buried at Weigert Cemetery near the farm.
3. George Christopher (January/19/1890-October/8/1947) married Olive Eleanor Anderson in 1913 and had one son. After her death he married Nora Ross in 1930. They had a daughter. George owned and farmed the original homestead following his parents retirement.
4. Catherine Augusta (January/18/1895-October31/1967) married Joseph Harold Linder in 1915. They farmed in the Hall-Howard county areas and raised four sons.
5. Edward James (August/20/1897-October/8/1975) married Minnie Charlotte Loescher in 1920. They lived on a farm northwest of Grand Island until retirement when they moved to St. Libory. They had one son and one daughter. Their son William Heins was Manager of Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. in Central City for several years. A grandson James Heins is presently County Treasurer for Merrick County.
6. Anna Elizabeth (October/11/1900-March/27/1981) married Howard Leo Polzel in 1922. They lived in Grand Island and had five daughters.
7. Myrtle Irene (October/30/1904-) married Roy D. Enck in 1926. They live in Grand Island and raised three sons and one daughter.

Fredrick William and Elizabeth Barbara Heins have nineteen grandchildren, fifty-one great grandchildren and forty-five great great grandchildren. *Submitted by Berniece Boughn*

WILLIAM HEINS FAMILY

William Frederick, son of Edward James and Wilhelmenia Heins was born in Merrick County on the family farm located on the Hall County line. He was educated in Hall County and graduated from Grand Island Senior High. Bill joined American Telephone and Telegraph in Grand Island in 1941 and recently celebrated forty years with the company.

Bill spent five years in the armed forces serving in Europe and in the South Pacific. After World War II he returned to his job with A.T.&.T. and traveled over the states laying the Trans Continental Cable.

In June 1946, he was married to Frances Marie Stephens, daughter of Fredrick and Florence Robuck Stephens. They are the parents of Donna Marie married to Dan Erickson who farms north of Central City. They are the parents of Russell, Brenton and Justin. James Frederick married to Marilyn Moody, Auburn Nebraska, parents of Michelle and Aaron. Jim is serving his second term at Merrick County Treasurer. William Daniel married to Margaret Holtorf, parents of William Edward, Melinda Kay and Rebecca Lynn. Dan is employed by Northwestern Bell in Norfolk, Nebraska and Juliana Marie married to Jeffery Freeland. Juli is teaching in a rural Nebraska school north of Whitman and plans to move back to Central City at the end of this school year.



William and Frances Heins

Bill's career with the phone company has taken the Heins all over the states. They returned to the Nebraska area in 1949 when Bill took a station job in North Platte. He joined Northwestern Bell and moved to Sidney for several years, then before coming to Silver Creek and Central City as manager in October 1956, he was an engineer in North Platte. Bill was transferred to Grand Island in February 1980 as a P.B.X. Supervisor and serves in that capacity now.

The Heins children graduated from the Central City school system and received most of their college education in Nebraska. They were active in school affairs and members of Grace Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Minnie Heins, Bill's mother, was the first patient in the Long Term at Litzenberg Hospital where she still resides in 1981.

Bill and Frances were active in civic and social activities in Central City and Merrick County. Bill served six years on the school board, President of the Chamber of Commerce, member of the Masonic Lodge, Lion's Club, Sportman's Club and was elected "Boss of the Year" in 1967 by the Jaycees. He is active in the Telephone Pioneers, serving a term as Chapter President. Frances served as President of the P.T.A., Hospital Auxiliary, Junior Women's Club, Band Parents, Guardian of Job's Daughters, Chairperson of American Cancer Society and was responsible for having several state golf meets at Riverside and Valley View. She organized the Wednesday morning bowling league. They were both active in the original membership drive for Valley View Country Club. They enjoy golfing, bowling, fishing and bridge. They also enjoy traveling in their travel trailer.

When Bill retires, the Heins will consider returning to Central City where three of their children now reside. *By Frances Heins*

JIM HELGOTH FAMILY

In 1956 Ernest Helgoth purchased 120 acres of ground in Merrick county with the intention that one of his son's interest might turn to farming and want to live there. When Jim and I married in October of '66, we moved to Clarks, Nebraska to undertake the big challenge of farming and establishing our new home and roots. Being both from Butler County and living and attending school in David City, we did not know anyone in the Clarks area. There were many days of tears caused by homesickness, but we had some very special neighbors who came over, introduced themselves and helped us to get acquainted in the community. We became active in St. Peter's Catholic Church and the homesick tears soon disappeared to deep down home feeling for our new community and friends.

We started our family in 1967 by the birth of a daughter Kimberly Kay in August. Three years later we adopted a special little three month old baby boy, we named Kevin James and was born in December of '69. Our family continued to grow with Kassie Ann arriving on the scene in February of '71 and three years later in May of '74 Kreg Anthony made his debut. Our home seemed to be bulging at the seams, so we made the decision to expand our home in the fall of '76. We added on and remodeled our home. But great sadness touched our hearts deeply in January of '77, we lost our little baby girl Kerri *Reni* who was born January 28, and died January 29. We put her to rest in the Catholic Cemetery in Clarks. Our life goes on but a piece of our hearts still remembers her.

Our family was not complete yet for we added to the list the birth of Kent William in October of '78 and the birth of Kirk Michael in January of '81.

Our family life style is centered around our children. We are very involved in 4-H, school and summer sport activities.

As our family and farming operations were growing, we thought it would be to our best interest to purchase the farm from Jim's parents. Upon the transaction we discovered we were purchasing a Town Cattaragus. In October, 1886, its owner, Mr. Ed L. Peet, had the land surveyed and sectioned into a town. History records that in those early days of Merrick County people generally believed the railroad would come through this property. Streets and avenues were plotted to be sixty-six feet wide and were then known as Main Street, Clarks Avenue, Evans Street, Park Avenue, Miller Avenue, Central Avenue, and Peet Street. Lots and blocks were plotted and sold to various families. Properties were bought and sold many times. The owner's visions of a thriving town were never fulfilled as the railroad located elsewhere. The Jim Helgoth family resides on Peet Street, and is engaged in a family farm operation of irrigated crops, cattle, hogs and a few chickens. *By Judy Helgoth*

JOHN HELZER FAMILY

John H. Helzer, the second son of Ludwig and Elizabeth Ault Helzer, was born July 2, 1892 in Merrick County, Nebraska, living most of his life in Merrick county. As a young man he mastered the art of a machinist, operating a repair shop on his father's farm and doing custom work with a threshing machine powered by a large steam engine. He also did custom corn shelling in the area.

With the outbreak of World War I, John was called into military service, serving with the U S Army Ammunition Train, hauling the ammunition



Mr. and Mrs. John Helzer

to the front lines. He was honorably discharged in April, 1919. He returned to his father's farm, and again operated his repair shop and custom work. He continued to do custom work until modern machines put them in the shed.

In 1921, he decided to start farming. The same year, April 27, 1921, he married Erna Niemoth at Zion Lutheran church in Worms, Nebraska. Erna was born October 8, 1900, in Buffalo county, Nebraska, the daughter of Charles and Louise Quandt Niemoth. Erna later moved to the Worms area. The first six years of their married life was spent farming. Five of these were in Section 5, Prairie Creek Township, Merrick County. Two daughters were born there: Violet, June 4, 1922 and Bernice, May 4, 1924. In 1925, John and Erna purchased five acres of land in Worms and built the Helzer Garage. He operated it from the farm until 1927 when they built a home on the acreage directly across from the Lutheran church. In December, 1927, they had a farm sale and moved to Worms. Here on July 28, 1934, a third daughter, Shirley, was born. During these sixty years of married life, Erna was indeed John's help-mate, handling the book work of his ever growing business. The acreage afforded them a place for a garden, chickens, and a cow or two. It was necessary that John hire a full time mechanic, and so Erna not only provided for the needs of her family, but also room and board for the hired help. John was well-known in the county because of his contribution to farming: building hay sweeps mounted on old trucks, and converting many a horse-drawn piece of machinery to tractor use. He also built one of the first well drilling rigs for Leroy Seim of Chapman, Nebraska.

The Helzers have spent fifty-four of their sixty years across from the church, which has been a very important part of their lives. John served as church sexton for many years and Erna a charter member of Dorcas Ladies Aid. She is still a member. In their youth, they both attended the parochial school in Worms.

Their three daughters are: Violet with American Airlines in Los Angeles, California; Bernice Hellwege of St. Paul, Nebraska; and Shirley, a stewardess with TWA out of San Francisco, California. They have four grandchildren — Craig, Randy, Nancy and Pat Hellwege, also one great-grandson, Marcus Dale Hellwege. *Submitted by Mrs. Harold Bader*

EDWARD HENSLEY FAMILY

Edward A. Hensley was born December 4, 1886, son of L.L. and Margaret Hensley of Merrick County. He married Hattie Frank, daughter of August and Margaretha Frank of Merrick County, November 27, 1912 in Central City, Nebraska. Both Hattie and Ed passed away in 1940, three months apart.

They started their married life at the William Phelps farm, three miles west of Central City. Two children were born at this home; Ralph Franklin November 25, 1913, and Margaret Maxine January 14, 1916.

My folks then purchased a farm north of Central City at the foot of the sandhills, that is now Mead Township. It was native land, no improvements. They built a house and other necessary buildings, and a cistern which was filled by windmills. The cistern collapsed after the first hard rain, due to sandy composition of soil, but it was rebuilt.

George Edward was born May 12, 1917 — died February 11, 1918 from pneumonia resulting from influenza epidemic. Milton Percy was born June 9, 1919.

Later they sold this farm and purchased one west of Central City, in Irishtown. The children attended Dist. 38 school and, later, high school in Central City. Lloyd L. was born September 28, 1925 at this home. In 1929, the family moved to Grandpa Frank's home to help care for my mother's sister. Later they moved to Carl Erickson farm one mile west of Central City, where they resided their remaining years.

My father enjoyed working with horses. He and a friend made several trips out west to round up wild horses, ship them back by train, break them, and then sell them. During the depression when corn was six cents to ten cents a bushel, I can remember the



Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Hensley

folks burning whole ears of corn in the cookstove. After it became so hot, it would pop and blow the lids off the stove top.

Ralph married Eleanor Reeves April 11, 1942. They still reside on the Erickson farm where our folks lived.

M. Maxine left home in 1934, and graduated 1937 from Clarkson Hospital Nursing School in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1939, she married John T. Connor of Olwein, Iowa. They lived in Omaha (Mead during the war years), then twenty-three years in Glenwood, Iowa, going on to Liberal, Kansas. John passed away in 1974. Maxine now resides in Central City.

M. Percy enlisted in the Air Force in 1941, and was discharged in 1946. He was stationed at several locations in U.S.A. and spent two and one half years in Burma and India. Returning from the service, he married Evelyn Reeves March 4, 1946. They farmed west of Central City for nineteen years, then purchased a filling station. Evelyn passed away in 1968, leaving a family of three children. Percy married Mary Jane Arthur in 1969. He sold the filling station in 1971, and at the present time is a real estate broker in Central City.

Lloyd enlisted in Naval Seabees in 1944, was stationed in California and Oregon, and was discharged in 1946. Since then he has worked for Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. March 8, 1949, he married Laura Jane Hayes of Central City. They've spent most of their married life in South Dakota, presently living at Aberdeen. *Submitted by Maxine Connor*

J.E. HENSLEY FAMILY

Joseph Ernest Hensley and Jessie Catherine Breckon were married June 9, 1909, in Central City, Nebraska. Ernest was born August 20, 1882, in Kokoma, Indiana, and died February 16, 1968, age 85, in Republican City, Nebraska. Jessie was born March 27, 1885, in Beloit, Kansas, and died June 17, 1958, in Central City, Nebraska. Their children, all born in Central City, were:

1. Murel Leven, born June 22, 1910, married Genevieve Rowena Sodergren March 19, 1939, in Central City, Nebraska. They have two boys and four girls. 2. Wendell Benjamin, born October 22, 1911. Missing in action World War II after a bombing mission over Poland, April 11, 1944. 3. Amy Margaret, born March 26, 1913, married Leo S. Smith on February 17, 1934, in Kearney, Nebraska. Two sons. 4. Russell Ernest, born November 13, 1914. Married Viola Teter Records on December 19, 1941, in Vancouver, Washington. Two sons, one daughter. He died April 21, 1974, in Boise, Idaho. 5. Neal Gordon, born October 8, 1916, married Thelma Stark on April 4, 1953, in Central City, Nebraska. No children. 6. Paul Ramon, born October 23, 1919. 7. Mary Louise, born August 22, 1921, married Rolland Doty on June 3, 1945, in Central City. Three daughters. 8. Richard Verne, born November 12, 1925. 9. Gerald Eugene, born March 24, 1930, married Marion Craft on May 25, 1956, in Grand Island, Nebraska. Two girls and one boy.

Father came to Nebraska on an "Immigrant Train" in 1886, when he was four years old. They settled on a farm west of Central City. (His parents were Leven L. and Lydia Margaret Hensley). He attended Dist. 48 school, and a graduate of Grand Island Business College. As a farmer, he raised purebred hogs and chickens. He was a great gardener, and had two large melon patches.He exhibited vegetables, flowers, and grains at the county and state fairs, and for many years was a shipper of hot bed plants in the Platte Valley. He loved to fish and hunt, and was instrumental in starting a county 4-H Poultry Club.

Mother came to Nebraska when two years old, ir 1887. She graduated from Wesleyan University after winning a scholarship from Central City High School. She taught school three years. She was a life-time member of Parent-Teachers' Association and the Women's Society of the Methodist Church, being president of both. She taught Sunday School for years. In 1957, being a member of Central City Women's Club, she was named Pioneer Woman. She mothered nine children besides helping with garden, chickens, and outdoor chores.

Both Mother and Father were 50-year members of the First Methodist Church. and recognized with pins. They had five sons in service during World War Two. S/Sgt. Wendell was a radio gunner on a B-17 stationed in England. Technical Sgt. Russell was in 18th Engineers in Aleutians. T/Sgt. Neal served in Photo Section of 90th Bomb Gp of 5th Air Force in the South Pacific. Paul Ramon is a welder with the 470 Engineer Maintenance Co. He is a sergeant. Richard represents the family in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific. Gerald was in the Navy during the Korean Conflict. *Submitted by Neal G. Hensley*



James Ernest Hensley Family

L.L. HENSLEY FAMILY

Levin Lealdice (L.L.) Hensley, son of John and Mary Hensley, was born at Charles City, Iowa, November 15, 1856. Mr. Hensley was an only child. In 1859, the family moved by covered wagon from Charles City, Iowa, to Kokomo, Indiana, where they had other relatives, hopeful to escape the large number of Indians in Iowa.

John encountered pneumonia enroute to Kokomo and died. Mrs. Hensley and 3 year old L.L. continued to Kokomo, Indiana, where L.L. was raised by his Aunt Amanda Moore. Mrs. Hensley taught school and later remarried.

In the year of 1856, Margaret Lydia Morrison was born in Kokomo, Indiana; her parents were Nelson and Nancy O. Morrison. Mr. Morrison came from the south, and Mrs. Morrison was Nancy O. Burton of England. Margaret Lydia was raised and educated in Kokomo, Indiana; after completing her high school education she opened a dress and millinery shop in Kokomo, Indiana. She and L.L. Hensley met and married in Kokomo in 1880.

Joseph Ernest Hensley was born August 20, 1882 in Kokomo, Indiana.



L. L. and Margaret Lydia Hensley

In 1884 the L.L. Hensley family came west by immigrant train traveling with their household goods, livestock and machinery. They settled in Merrick County, Lone Tree Township, having other relatives living here. They spent their entire lives in Merrick County, first residing on the Ewing farm, then Nelson and Joseph Phelps farm, all west of Central City. However, they did live a short time on Prairie Island. Later in life, they were able to build a new home on 80 acres of land one half mile north of J. Phelps farm. Their home is now known as the Jim and Myrtle Jefferson home.

The Hensley children attended District #48 school, which served also as Sunday school and Church. Often the Indians would visit the school, frightening the youngsters. They came mainly to barter for food, especially coffee.

Other Hensley children, all born in Merrick County, were Edward A., born December 4, 1886-died June 14, 1940, married in 1911 to Hattie H. Frank, (born February 18, 1882 in Hall County-died February 19, 1940). Ethel Hensley, born 1887-died 1887 in infancy. Verne L., born March 7, 1888-died March 30, 1950. Verne never married but lived with his parents. His labors built their new home, the last home they lived in. Verne served his country in World War I. Myrtle Noami, born July 10, 1896 married James T. Jefferson in 1919 (born February 14, 1899-died August 24, 1979).

Joseph Ernest, the eldest child, born 1882 Kokomo, Indiana-died January 16, 1968 married Jessie Catherine Breckon of Central City, June 9, 1909, (born March 28, 1885-died June 17, 1958).

Mr. and Mrs. Hensley were both lovers of nature, land and horticulture. Mr. Hensley had one of the first orchards in Merrick County. During his later years, when physically unable to work in his gardens and farm, he enjoyed fancy work, cross-stitch being his favorite. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hensley were affiliated with the Methodist Church. Mr. Hensley was a member of Lone Tree Lodge No. 36, A.F. & A.M. for over fifty-five years. *Submitted by Granddaughter Maxine Connor*

L.L. HENSLEY-TRIBUTE

Always striving for excellence in his several activities of life.

With a greatness of character and integrity in contrast to his physical stature, with excellence of purpose and a remarkable loyalty to family and community, and unflagging energy and skill in any endeavor undertaken. L. L. Hensley will long be remembered as outstanding by the friends he helped, and cherished by relatives as an inspiration in their achievements. He was quiet and unassuming, always kindly and considerate, with ready humor.

Not only as a capable farmer was Mr. Hensley known, but by his hobbies. The years Merrick County was represented at the state fair he was one of the old triumvirate — Rube Wolcott, O. J. McCullough and L.L. Hensley — that prepared the exhibits. He always contributed his share of grasses, small grains, vegetables, etc., and he invariably came home with his share of individual honors.

At county fairs Mr. Hensley's exhibits have always brought admiration. In the ag hall, he has contributed more than once the lion's share of produce. No one knows the hours he spent to make these community events greater successes. He spared no effort and no expense to bring his grains to top-notch rank. And as usual, his exhibits were generously sprinkled with blue ribbons.

In later years, unable to pursue outdoor activiites so vigorously, Mr. Hensley became interested in fancywork, as he watched their housekeeper's fingers work. He tried it, and found he had remarkable aptitude. So began a series of pillow slips, fancywork pieces, in cross-stitch, and other embroidery. He brought many compliments for his endeavors, and won several prizes at the county fair. Notable, too, is the fact that he did this without glasses.

In his relationships with his family, Mr. Hensley was ever loving and considerate; with his many friends, he treated all with courtesy and fairness. A Master Mason for well over 50 years, he practiced the character-building principles of the order faithfully.

Relatives and friends will find comfort, as this upright pioneer passes, in the reflection that he goes to a well-earned rest. *Submitted by M. Maxine Connor*

NEAL & THELMA HENSLEY

On October 8, 1916, the fifth child of Joseph Ernest and Jessie Catherine Hensley was born in Central City, Nebraska. Neal started to school at District #39, went about two years, and then the folks moved to town. He graduated from Central City High School with the class of 1936. He started to work at age thirteen at the Swift Cream Station, continued there until Pearl Harbor, then enlisted in the Army Air Force.

I left home December 26, 1941, for service with a large group from the Grand Island area. Uncle Sam must have needed us, for after three weeks and five army camps, we were on a boat in New York Harbor, headed for Australia. We went by way of the Panama Canal, south of New Zealand, and thirty-eight days later arrived in Australia. A short time later, I helped to service the airplane that had flown General McArthur in from the Phillipines.

I was picked to go to an Australian Photography School, where my start in photography began. I spent about a year in Australia and two years in New Guinea. I arrived home Christmas morning of 1944, and was stationed in Coffeyville, Kansas, until discharge from the service September 7, 1945. In January, 1946, I started up a photography studio, working out of my folks' home until fall of 1947. I moved the studio above the Sun Theater (now Redman Shoe Company). We moved to our present



Neal and Thelma Hensley

location January of 1954. I have just completed thirty-five years of complete photography service for the people of Central City and surrounding area. In 1948, I added custom picture framing, and in 1957, started manufacturing rubber stamps for wholesale and retail. On April 4, 1953, I married Thelma Stark, daughter of James and Nellie Stark of Central City. We moved into an upstairs apartment in August, 1953, and in December, 1953, purchased the apartment and made the downstairs into a studio. We moved from uptown to our present location, 122 D Street, in January, 1954, as we could give better service and room for our customers to park.

Thelma was the third child of James and Nellie Stark, born April 25, 1916, at Rogers, Nebraska. At age three, they moved to a farm at Schuyler, then in September, 1930, the family moved to Alda. Thelma graduated from Alda High School, class of 1939. She attended Nebraska Central College, summer school at Nebraska Wesleyan, and the University of Nebraska. She taught country school in Hall County for three years, one year at Marquette, worked as a nurse's aide at St. Francis Hospital, and in several nursing homes. She was teaching at Merrick County District #1 when she suffered a severe stroke that called for early retirement. After three years, she is able to get around with a walker and do something around the house.

We are members of the Methodist Church. Thelma was a Sunday school teacher for a while. Neal served as an usher and church treasurer in the old church. He served several years as Scoutmaster, and belongs to the American Legion. Thelma is a Rebekah and Legion Auxiliary member. *Submitted by Neal G. Hensley*

WATSON & ANNICE HESSELGESSER

Annice Van Pelt was born September 13, 1897, on the home place three miles north of Archer, to Mayo and Nora (Eckles) Van Pelt. She attended the rural school near their home. Wedding bells rang for her and Watson Hesselgesser at Central City on July 21, 1917.



Watson and Annice Hesselgesser

Watson was born June 8, 1891, at the Hesselgesser homestead fifteen miles north-west of Burwell in a small community known as Valleyview, Nebraska. Their honeymoon was a train ride to Burwell, where they were greeted by relatives and friends. They journeyed on up the Calamus, where they made their home with Watson's mother on the homestead. A son, Clarence, was born to them April 27, 1918. They purchased a farm and moved to Cotesfield, where they farmed several years. A daughter, Esther, was born to them December 27, 1919, while residing there. Later they returned to the Valley View community, where they farmed until the death of Annice's father, Mayo Van Pelt. While living north of Burwell, a daughter, Rozella, was born to them on June 8, 1932. They moved to Archer to reside with Annice's mother, Nora Van Pelt, and assist with farming the home place. They lived various places in the Archer and Central City communities, where Watson helped with farm work.

They spent one year in Washington and Oregon where they experienced picking fruits, pole beans, windrowing onions, and Watson built an onion shed for drying onions. Upon returning from the Northwest, they operated the cream station in Archer until 1943, when they moved to Chapman to operate the Chapman Co-operative Cream Station and Meat Market. Later, Watson was employed by the Chapman School as custodian. He served on the Chapman Volunteer Fire Department. Annice also worked at the school, helping with the school lunch program and at the Ury's store. They were members of the Chapman Baptist Church.

On August 9, 1948, Watson was killed in a car-train accident on the Chapman railroad crossing. Annice went to work at the Farmer's Co-op Store for several years, before seeking employment in Grand Island. She was employed at Jake's Bakery for a number of years, and was later employed at Dreier's Bakery until her retirement. She resided in their home at Chapman, where Annice took pride in keeping her place neat in appearance. In the fall of 1975, she was forced to give up her home due to failing health, at which time she made her home at the Lakeview Retirement Home in Grand Island. She resided there until her death January 3, 1979.

Watson and Annice were laid to rest in the Grand Island City Cemetery. Their son Clarence and his wife Leola (Lindblom) Hesselgesser, and their daughter Esther and her husband, William Larsen, live in Grand Island. Their daughter Rozella and her husband, Neal Sidders, reside on a farm south of Wood River. *Submitted by Rozella Sidders*

RAYMOND HEULE FAMILY

Raymond Heule was born in Nance County on July 25, 1920, to John and Pearl Heule. He got his education at District #34, and high school at Pleasant Hill and Clarks. In 1942, he married Marjorie Kuhn the daughter of George and Bertha Kuhn. She was born September 15, 1925, in Merrick County.

They made their home for awhile in San Diego, California. Raymond was employed at the Consolidated Aircraft Factory. They then returned to Merrick County, where they have farmed until they retired in 1980.

They have four children. One son, Gene, of Columbus, Nebraska. He married Joan Stromsberg of Clarks, Nebraska. Three daughters, Mrs. Don (Marilyn) Coffey of Columbus, Nebraska. Mrs. Del (Joyce) Jonas of Omaha, Nebraska. Mrs. Frank (Shirley) Hughs of Platte Center, Nebraska. They have eight grandchildren. *Submitted by Marjorie Heule*

EDGAR & ANNA HICKS

Anna Kai and I arrived in Nebraska (Omaha), two days after "the Great Blizzard of '75" which occurred on January 10, 1975. We came as a mobile couple transferred from Minneapolis by my employer, Cargill Incorporated. We arrived by plane but Alaskian huskies would have been more appropriate. There was no sign of activity outside the airport, and it appeared to take the balance of the day to get into the downtown area. We joked that we were participants in a form of corporate banishment.

While in Omaha my office was in the Omaha Grain Exchange. I came in contact with many people in the grain business who unbeknown at the time would have significant impact on our lives within three years. Anna was employed by the Northern Natural Gas Company at their headquarters on Dodge Street. She was in employee relations and served actively on community committees dealing with education.

On December 8, 1975 after four fruitless planting seasons Anna was able to produce our first child, William Edgar, III. Nebraska on that day was ingrained within us and we are reminded every day as he/we grow as a family.

The following year we moved to Chicago for the second time. During a portion of our first residency in Chicago we were not married. (We were not living together though). Anna was at home in New York City where we met while attending Pace University. When I graduated in 1970, I left for Illinois and the Chicago Board of Trade. We communicated every weekend by phone and I returned to New York on holidays that gave me Friday or Monday off. One day Anna was in Chicago for a visit and we made the decision. On February 1, 1971 we were married.

It was during our second residency in Chicago that we were introduced to Merrick County. It was Monday, September 26, 1977. It was presented as a one month visit by me to institute a grain hedging program for the Farmers Cooperative of Clarks. This was planned as the first step leading to unit train grain shipments to the Pacific coast for export. After the first day I returned to my palatial residence in Central City, the Breezy Point Motel, and called Anna in Chicago to inform her of the warmth and uniqueness of rural society. She enjoyed hearing it as much as I enjoyed seeing it.

By the end of November I had lobbied hard enough with area producers to turn my visit into full-time employment with the cooperative in grain marketing.



Edgar Hicks Family — Edgar J., William Edgar III, Anna Kai, and Rye Ling

On January 9, 1978, we moved into our home at 2226 16th Avenue in Central City. Anna, William, and myself seemed to have arrived in stride. Chicago a town of 3,000,000 had met its match in the population of the Clarks 300 and the Central City 3000.

As had happened during our first entry into Nebraska, Anna went right into production. On December 26, my birthday, she sprouted our second child, Rye Ling. We were experiencing so much from our association with area residents and producers it was only natural for her to be born at Litzenberg Hospital. We attended United Methodist Church where on Mothers Day 1979 William and Rye were christened. It gave us a total feeling and a great deal to be thankful for.

In pursuing our agricultural interest, we have lived in seven locations prior to Merrick County and two locations since leaving. *Submitted by Edgar J. Hicks*

CHARLENE MEYER HIEGEL

Charlene (Meyer) Hiegel was born January 19, 1941 to Alfred and Evangeline (Schwarz) Meyer. I



Clarence Hiegel Family — 1980

was born on a farm southeast of Palmer, Nebraska. I attended District #41 country school and went to Palmer High School, graduating in 1959. I married Clarence Hiegel from Grand Island and then we moved to Lincoln where we lived from 1959 to 1969. We now live on a farm north of Grand Island.

I attended beauty school at Sar-Rob College of Cosmotology in Grand Island and worked at Capital Beauty Salon.

We have two sons. Kevin, twenty-one, is married to Lisa (Arnold) Hiegel, and they live in Grand Island. They are expecting their first child. Christopher, ninteen, is currently attending Doane College at Crete, Nebraska. He is now a junior, and is majoring in math. *Submitted by Darlene Hiegel*

LYNN & SHERYL HILL

Lynn F. Hill was born December 31, 1945, the son of Jack and Tottsie Hill, at Quail, Texas. He has two brothers and four sisters all living in Texas. He grew up on the family farm, where they raised cotton, peanuts and other grains. He attended grade school and high school at Quail. Lynn left home at a young age. He was a truck driver and found his way to Grand Island, Nebraska, where he worked on construction.

Sheryl Yleen, daughter of Emil and Dorothy Michael Ahlers, was born March 1, 1944, on a farm five miles southwest of Clearwater, Nebraska. She has one brother and two sisters. Sheryl attended a country grade school and Clearwater High School, graduating in 1962. She attended the Professional Business Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota. From there she went to Grand Island and worked as a Dental Assistant at Grand Island Dental Clinic for several years.



Lynn and Sheryl Hill — 1964

Sheryl and Lynn were married March 21, 1964, at Concordia Lutheran Church in Clearwater, Nebraska. Lynn was, at this time, an apprentice bricklayer for Henry Ballard.

On August 9, 1965, their daughter Sonya Renae was born. She lived the first two years of her life in

Grand Island, but the family then moved to the Wesley Schutz property west of Central City. They became members of Zion Lutheran Church in Worms. Sonya attended school there for a short time. Sheryl was a member of the Cheerie Center Club at this time.

In 1971 the family moved to a farm owned by Charles Bosselman, the Kroeger Place, four miles south of Worms. There, daughter Shari Kae was born November 26, 1972.

In 1976 the family moved to Grand Island after living in Clearwater where they had helped Sheryl's father and brother farm and milk. July 18, 1977, their daughter Stacia Rae was born.

Sheryl and Lynn bought their home in Grand Island where they now reside in November 1979. Lynn is a partner in the G & H Masonry Construction. Sheryl is a housewife and still active in the Cheerie Center Club and on the Board of Directors at the YWCA in Grand Island. Sonya is a tenth grader at Senior High, Shari is in second grade at Howard Elementary, and Stacia, last but not least, is at home helping Mother. *Submitted by Sheryl Hill*

EUGENE HILTON FAMILY

When referring to the history of Merrick County early settlers and pioneer families, we think of the "Lone Tree," the famous monument that stands three and one-half miles southwest of Central City, Nebraska. This also brings our thoughts to the name "Hilton."

Eugene Hilton was born in Augusta, Maine, February 8, 1844. He came to Merrick County with his mother, Mrs. Mary Hilton, a widow, in December of 1859. His father, John Hilton, had died in the fall of 1859.

Mary Hilton came to take charge of the Lone Tree Station on the northwestern stage and mail route, located on the Platte River southwest of Central City. The station got its name from a large cottonwood tree that stood alone on the bank of the Platte River. No timber near, it was a welcome sight to travelers. Mary Hilton would direct them on their way.

Eugene, in his sixteenth year, carried mail for the stage company between Wood River and Eagle Island.

Mary Hilton took up homestead rights in 1860 and built a small home north of where the tall cottonwood stood. Mary died in 1867. Eugene remained there. In 1868 he homesteaded more land. This land is still known as the "Lone Tree Farm." He owned nearly 300 acres, including both farm and river land.

On March 31, 1869, Eugene married Helen Groves in Ashland, Nebraska. Helen Groves was born July 17, 1851, in St. Jonesburg, Vermont. She moved with her parents to Ashland in 1859.

The young couple lived on the homesteaded land, where they worked hard for a number of years, planting trees, building a home, and making other improvements as time and finances would permit. They raised a family of six: John, Minnie (Mrs. Frank Moore), Guy, Raymond, Faye (Mrs. Clinton Hoagland), and Verne.

In 1906 Mr. Hilton retired from farming, rented the farm and pasture land out, and moved to Central City, puchasing the residence at 1704 15th Avenue, across from the South Ward School.

Eugen Hilton died September 8, 1920, age seventy-six. His widow, Helen Hilton, continued to live in this home until her death March 4, 1932. One son, Raymond, died at the age of eighteen. The other five of the family were all living in Merrick County.

When the Hilton estate was settled about a year later, the home at 1704 15th Avenue was sold to Parcels Marquis and wife, Ethel. John and Verne, the oldest and youngest of the five heirs, bought the farm — so it still remained in the "Hilton" name.

VERNE L. HILTON

Verne L. Hilton, well-known resident of Merrick County and the only member of the Eugene Hilton family now living, was born January 6, 1890, on the "Lone Tree Farm" southwest of Central City.

At the age of sixteen, he moved with his parents to Central City. He went to Country School District #48 and later attended Kearney State College.

Verne's first job was with Ross, Cowgill, and Hart Hardware store.

On December 12, 1917, he enlisted and served in World War One. He was in England when the war ended. He returned home, and he and his brother, John, opened a Firestone Tire and Service store known as "Hilton Master Service." They also sold refrigerators and radios.

On October 14, 1928, he married Alma E. Wright of Superior, Nebraska. In 1936, they adopted a baby girl, Janelle.

In 1932, John retired from the Service Store. Verne continued to own and operate it until 1940, when he closed out his stock and sold the building, saying he was tired of the tire work and was ready for a change. He and his family moved to Amarillo, Texas, hopeful a change of climate would help Janelle, who was age four and had been ill since a baby.

In Amarillo, Verne went with the "Heath Furniture Company" as manager of the appliance department. He also learned the furniture business.

In 1949, he and Otis Hall bought a furniture store in Hereford, Texas, and had a nice business known as "H & H Furniture." After ten years, Verne decided to retire. He sold to Mr. Hall, and the Hiltons moved back to Amarillo and took life easy for a while. They knew they would return to Central City to live, and made a trip each year to see about the farm, usually during hunting season.

It wasn't long until Verne and Alma realized they weren't ready to quit the business world. In 1962, they opened a new business in Amarillo — "Hilton Lamp and Gift House," carrying a complete line of lamps, lamp shades , wall decorations, gifts, etc., which proved to be a very popular shop. While they enjoyed it, at the end of five years they decided it was time to retire a second time. In 1967, they sold the "Lamp House," and two years later sold their home.

In March of 1970, they came back home after thirty years. John Hilton died in 1961 and Verne had the farm to manage. After two years, due to failing eyesight and poor health, he felt it best to sell the "Lone Tree Farm" which meant so much to him, and had been in the Hilton name 113 years. On January 2, 1973, he sold it to Charles and Doris Benner. Verne retired again — this time for sure!

Texas was good to him, but he always said, "There is no place like Nebraska." He is proud to leave his Thumbprint in the Merrick County History Book. *Submitted by Alma Hilton*

EDWARD HOBACK FAMILY

Ed, son of John and Carrie Mitchell Hoback, was born in Custer County, Nebraska in 1912. The John Hoback family migrated to Custer County in 1908 from Floyd, Virginia. Later the family moved to the Gage Valley area in Howard County, west of Palmer. It was here Ed and his brothers and sisters attended the Gage Valley school during the early part of their education. Ed started to high school at Palmer and later attended Fullerton High School.

The family then moved to the Pierce Chapel community, living on the Russell farm west of Pierce Chapel. Ed farmed and also worked for other farmers in that area for several years. It was in this community that he met Lola Beck, daughter of David and Fern Beck, who later became his wife.

Lola attended Pleasant Hill country school and graduated from Clarks High School. She was an accomplished pianist, and became a rural school teacher. She taught six terms in Nance and Merrick County Districts #27, #18 and both North and South District #2. Lola and Ed were married Litchfield, Nebraska, in August, 1936, by a former Clarks pastor, the Rev. E. W. Price.

Their first home was on the Guy Darling farm in the Fairview community and then they moved to a farm near Clarks for one year, and from there to the neighborhood west of Central City, where they later purchased the Tom Osterman farm.

Ed and Lola have five children: Edwardine (Mrs. Gary Lindgreen) living at rural Clarks; Ettajean (Mrs. Eldon Hillers) of Bellevue, Nebraska; Eugene, rural Central City; Karen (Mrs. Tom Shonquist) LaVista, Nebraska; and Joyce (Metzler) of Denver, Colorado.

For twenty-four years, Ed and Lola had a trucking business in conjunction with their farming operation. They purchased the William Kendall farm one-half mile south in 1966 where they moved and built a new home. In 1975, they sold a portion of their original farm to their son, Eugene, where he built a new home and now resides with his wife and family.

At the time of their retirement Ed and Lola began traveling, something they enjoy very much. For several years they have spent their winter months in the lower Rio Grande Valley near McAllen, Texas.

The Hobacks are affiliated with the Presbyterian Church at Central City, Nebraska.

JOHN FRANKLIN HOBACK

John F. Hoback was born September 6, 1881 at Floyd, Virginia, the son of Marion Hoback and Christine (Smith) Hoback. He had an older brother James William and a younger brother Jacob. John F. married Carrie Eulalia Mitchell on May 11, 1904, at Floyd, Virginia. Carrie was born June 7, 1882, the daughter of Josephus A. and Elizabeth Catherine (Routrough).



John and Carrie Hoback

John and Carrie had four sons and three daughters: James Burnice "Burt," Clarice Elizabeth, Newell Kenneth, Edward Mitchell, John Oren, Carrie Lorraine, and Alta Evelyn.

James Burnice "Burt," born November 14, 1905, Floyd, Virginia, married Mazie May (Cargill) June 3, 1934, Palmer, Nebraska. They had one son and four daughters; Ronald Dean married Ann Louise (Horner). Donna Rae married James D. Moore. Marjorie Ellen married Howard Joseph Seuferer. Alta Lorraine married Lauern Brodd. Cleo Kathleen.

Clarice Elizabeth, born October 6, 1907, at Davey, West Virginia. She married Otis Frederick Lamberson January 1, 1931, at St. Paul, Nebraska. They had two sons and one daughter. James Otis married Marlene (Krebshack). Jean Marie married Jerr Haag. Gerald "Gerry" Lee married Georgeann (Kenfield).

Newell Kenneth born September 19, 1910, Callaway, Nebraska, married Rosa Alma Maria (Meyer) September 30, 1943, at St. John Lutheran Parsonage, Palmer, Nebraska. They had two sons and six daughters. Kenneth Jerome. Newlene Rose married Dale Wayne Laib. Eulalia Marie married Robert Scott Dory. Caralee Ann married James Stewart Gruntorad. Roxanne Deborah died at seventeen months. Newell Johnnie married Barbara LaHaine. Angelia Elizabeth married Kyle David Heck. Cassondra Dee.

Edward Mitchell born July 30, 1912, Callaway , Nebraska, married Lola Mae (Beck) August 23, 1936, Litchfield, Nebraska. They had one son and four daughters. Edwardine married Gary Lindgreen. Ettagean married Eldon Hiller. Eugene married Sandra Wolf. Karen married Tom Shanquist. Joyce married Frank Metzler.

John Oren born March 9, 1915, sod house, Lodi, Nebraska which is near Callaway, Nebraska, married Alice Benner, September 3, 1950. They had one daughter Marlene Faye who married Lyle Garwood. They have a son. Alice died July 7, 1967 with interment in the Central City Cemetery. On April 7, 1974 J. Oren married Lucy (Hammons) Sawyers.

Carrie Lorraine born January 30, 1922, Wood River, Nebraska, married Alfred "Al" Joseph Dyer

January 27, 1946, Palmer, Nebraska. They had three daughters. Eunice Faye. Janet Marie married Ronald Scott. Karen Sue married Rick Roland Reed. Gayle Claire married John David Hilderbrand.

Alta Evelyn born March 28, 1923 and died April 18, 1923 with interment at Rose Hill Cemetery, Palmer, Nebraska. Clarice and Burt came home from school with the measles resulting in the death of Alta.

John and Carrie farmed several farms in the Merrick, Nance and Howard Counties including the Lamberson and Tibbetts farm. March of 1935 the family moved to the Frank Newlon farm south of Palmer. Carrie died here on March 7, 1942. John F. died November 4, 1953 on the Newell K. Hoback farm north of Palmer, Nebraska. Both are buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery, Palmer, Nebraska. *Submitted by Rosa Hoback*

NEWELL KENNETH HOBACK

Newell was born September 19,1910 in a Sod House, Lodi, Nebraska, which was located near Callaway. He was the son of John Franklin Hoback and Carrie Eulalia Mitchell. On September 30, 1943 he married Rosa Alma Maria Meyer the daughter of Herman Meyer and Anna Marie Bormann. The ceremony was performed at the St. John's Lutheran parsonage by Rev. Theodore Droegemeouller.



Newell and Rosa Hoback

They had two sons and six daughters:

Kenneth Jerome was born September 4, 1944 on the Frank Newlon farm south of Palmer, Nebraska.

Newlene Rose was born December 15, 1946 on the Frank Newlon farm and married Dale Wayne Laib January 1, 1966. They have two sons, Micheal James and Jeffery Todd.

Eulalia Marie was born June 13, 1949 Palmer, Nebraska and married Robert S. Dory, September 1, 1968. The they have two sons, Andrew Scott and Jonathan Robert.

Caralee Ann was born November 9, 1951 Palmer, Nebraska and married James Stewart Gruntorad, December 24, 1971. They have three daughters and one son: Aimee Joe, Kendra Ann, James Jacob "J.J.", and Crystal Marie.

Roxanne Deborah was born April 14, 1954 and died S eptember 10, 1957 of bronchitis pneumonia, with interment West Lawn Cemetery Grand Island, Nebraska.

Newell Johnnie was born October 9, 1957 and married Barbara LaHaine November 24, 1978.

Angelia Elizabeth was born December 29, 1960 and married Kyle David Heck, January 26, 1980.

Cassondra Dee was born May 9, 1968.

Newell came to Merrick County in 1927 from Cabool, Missouri, with his family to live on the Frank Hindman farm northeast of Palmer. He worked as a hired hand most of the time for a small wage, room and board. His wages were turned over to his family. In 1933 the family moved to the Tibbets farm east of Palmer. March of 1935 they moved to the Frank Newlon farm south of Palmer. September of 1941 Newell was kicked in the stomach while unharnessing a horse. He was in the St. Francis Hospital, Grand Island, Nebraska for thirty-one days. Doctor Farnworth told his mother that the odds were one in ten that he would ever leave the hospital alive.

July 28, 1943 while helping Alfred Meyer, a neighbor, with threshing he met Alfred's sister Rosa who was to become his bride September 30, 1943.

In 1947 he bought a farm north of Palmer in the Glenwood Community. He farmed here until 1954 when they moved to Grand Island.

1959 the family moved back to Merrick County to live south of Chapman. At this time Newell was working for Bob Manning putting up Behlen Bins. In 1962 they moved to Grand Island to work for the Overland National Bank and J.C. Penny. In 1975 Newell retired. April of 1976 Newell came out of retirement to work four hours a day as caretaker for Webb Augustine.

Newell, Rosa, and Cassondra reside at 1911 North Sheridan, Grand Island, Nebraska. *Submitted by Rosa Hoback*

OREN & LUCY HOBACK

In a small town (Floyd) in the beautiful hills of Virginia, a young couple, John Franklin Hoback and Carrie Eulalia Mitchell was united in marriage May 11, 1904. They had a little boy and girl when they decided to move to Nebraska. The little girl, Clarice Elizabeth being sixteen months old and James Burnice three years old. They moved to Callaway, where three more children were born to this union, Newell Kenneth, Edward Mitchell, and John Oren. Oren was born March 9, 1915, in a small town called Lodi, near Callaway. The town of Lodi is no longer there. In 1922, a daughter Lorraine was born to John and Carrie Hoback at Alda, Nebraska.

In the year 1917 or 1918, the family moved to Grand Island and lived on a dairy farm and delivered milk in the city. Then in 1922, he gave that up and rented a farm near Alda, where Oren attended school. In 1927, their father decided to move to the Ozarks and buy some of that cheap $5.00 an acre farm land that was advertised in most of the farm magazines. They landed in Cabool, Missouri in two model T Fords. They found out there were lots of rocks in those hills. Big rocks, little rocks and all sizes of rocks, with a little red clay mixed in for good measure. You couldn't find enough dirt to cover the garden seeds. They decided to return to Palmer, Nebraska, where Oren finished his education, graduating with the class of '34. Later he and his brother farmed the Frank Newlon farm near Palmer.

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, and the call went out for our young men to serve their country. May 1st of 1942, Oren went into the army and was sent overseas, serving in New Guinea, East Indies and the Phillipines. March 7, 1942, his mother passed away. Following his discharge in December of 1945, Oren returned home to Nebraska. Working out for several years, he rented the Blevins farm in 1948. September 3rd, 1950, he married Alice Virginia Benner. One child, Marlene Faye, was born October 1, 1951. March of 1951 they moved to the Powell farm and lived there till 1965. His father passed away in 1953.

At that time Merrick County had a county farm 1½ miles north of Central City, which had been in operation for many years. The decision had been made by a general election, to sell this farm, in 1962. The house was large with 18 rooms. This house had been a home for many old people that didn't have any other place to live. Oren went to the auction, which was held at the County Courthouse, and came home the proud owner of this farm. Thye moved into this house 1965.

July 7, 1967, Alice passed away. During the next seven years he and his daughter Marlene, managed the farm and housework. Marlene went on to school in Columbus, studying nursing to follow in the footsteps of her mother. Also during this time they were able to enjoy a trip to the Holy Lands and to Hawaii.

April 7, 1974, Oren and Lucy Sawyers were married. Lucy is the daughter of John and Lizzie Jones Hammons. She has lived in this vicinity since she was 18 months old. She was born in Kentucky August 13, 1918. She has four children and 11 grandchildren.



County Farm House — torn down 1974



New Hoback Home built 1974

During the summer and fall of 1974, the old County farm house was torn down and a new one was built.

BENJAMIN FRANK HOBERT

Benjamin Frank Hobert was born in Livingston County, Michigan, January 26, 1848. He lived for a while in Chicago, then went west with his father by oxen team. He was only seventeen years old. Eventually coming to Silver Creek about 1866 as the Union Pacific was being built.

On May 2, 1880, he married Harriet S. Graves in Silver Creek. In 1882, Mr. Hobert and his bride moved to Laramie, Wyoming, where he was a freight conductor for the Union Pacific. An engine ran into the freight he was working, steam pipes broke and he was badly burned. Leeches were used to draw the bad blood. He was somewhat crippled from the accident.

In 1883, the family returned to Silver Creek. He helped build the pump station at Silver Creek. He also built the first building in Silver Creek after the Union Pacific buidings. In 1886 Mr. Hobert homesteaded at Silver Creek. He lost cattle in the 1888 blizzard.

In 1889, he and his wife started a grocery store near the place where the library now stands. In 1894 they moved across the street where the store was on the first floor and they lived on the second floor.

Harriet, Benjamin's wife, was born in Saville, Ohio, on January 6, 1861, and died in Silver Creek on May 20, 1922. Buried there. Five children were born of the union.

Vern died a few days after birth. Buried in an unmarked grave in Silver Creek near his mother.

Lee Forest Hobert was born in Silver Creek on March 11, 1883. He was a district storekeeper based at Nampa, Idaho for the Pacific Fruit Express. He died in Nampa, Idaho, July 24, 1965, and is buried in Ogden Utah near his wife, Clara. There were no children.

Paul Vernon Hobert was born October 9, 1885, in Silver Creek and died April 20, 1974, in Boulder, Colorado. Buried in Silver Creek. He married Edna May Nelson on November 4, 1910. She was born in Valley, Nebraska May 12, 1892. She died in Columbus, Nebraska, May 26, 1961, and is buried in Silver Creek.

Paul was a telegraph operator and station agent

for the Union Pacific Railroad for fifty-six years. He served as mayor of Silver Creek for twelve years and was a member of the school board for thirty years.

Carol Levon Miles, residing in Boulder, Colorado. Born September 1, 1911, in Valparaiso, Nebraska. Husband, Bernard, deceased. One son: Stephen Hobert Miles, residing in Denver, Colorado Born May 21, 1946, in Fremont, Nebraska. Wife, Linda Two daughters, Shawna Kristine and Jennifer Lynn.

Delores Ivy Carlson, residing in Lincoln, Nebraska. Born February 25, 1915, in Silver Creek. Husband, Virgil. Divorced. One son: Cris Edward Carlson residing in Kennewick, Washington. Born June 24, 1943, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Wife, Shirley. Two daughters, Stephanie Lyn and Julie Ann.

Ivy Scribner Campain was born in Silver Creek August 3, 1890. She died in Carmichael, California, September 4, 1972. Buried in Silver Creek. Husband, Joe, deceased. One son: Glen Ronald Scribner now residing in Carmichael, California. Born May 21, 1915, in Silver Creek. Wife, Velma. Three sons, Paul, Dale and Richard.

Eva, twin sister of Ivy, died six months after birth. Buried in Silver Creek. *Submitted by Carol Miles*

CASPER HOHMAN FAMILY

Casper Henry Hohmann, born January 27, 1847, emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1885 and settled in Merrick County, staying with the Schmale family whom they had known in Germany. He was married to Mary Henning.



Casper Henry and Mary Henning Hohmann

Children in Casper Hohmann's family were: Henry, married to Anna Schmale; William, married to Lena; Lena, married to Archie Wilson; Rickie, married to Wm. Osterhold; Louise, married to Wm. Justice; Alvina, married to Perry; Dora, married to Frank Letchet; Anna, married to Wm. Becker; Emma, married to William Wilhelmi, and an infant daughter.

Kasper Hohmann passed away December 29, 1928, at Grand Island and is buried at the East Grand Island Cemetery. His wife passed away in Canada and is buried there. Kasper's mother, Katrine, was born November 12, 1813, and died January 15, 1885, and is also buried at the East Grand Island Cemetery. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

HENRY HOHMANN FAMILY

Henry Hohmann was born on July 22, 1878, at Duene, Westphalia, Germany, and came to the United States with his parents in 1885. He married Anna L. Schmale on September 21, 1904. She was a daughter of Carl and Louise Spanier Schmale and was born on November 2, 1883, in Merrick County.

The Henry Hohmann children were: Lydia, married to Alfred Becker; Dorothy, married to Diedrick Niedfelt; Walter, married to Catherine ; Esther, married to Fred Zubgaum; Margaret (Peggy) married to Roy Johnson; Alice, married to P.L. O'Neal; Marie, married to Gordon Chidley; and Henry Hohmann.

In 1909 the Henry Hohmann family moved to Saskatchewan, Canada. They returned to Merrick County in 1921 and resumed farming. In 1926 the family moved to Grand Island where Mr. Hohmann worked as a carpenter.

Henry Hohmann passed away in Grand Island on July 1, 1956 and Anna Schmale Hohmann passed away on November 5, 1969, at Grand Island. They are buried in the Grand Island Cemetery. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

HARVEY HOLBROOK FAMILY

Harvey and Sonia Holbrook and their three children, Connie who was 15, Kathy who was 13, and Joel who was 9, came to Merrick County in 1975 and lived in Central City where Harvey teaches math in the public school. Harvey and Sonia are the owners and operators of Platte Valley Court, a mobile home park and overnight camping area.

Harvey was born in Holt County; Sonia, Connie, and Kathy were born in Antelope County, and Joel was born in Hooker County. Sonia's great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Neisius, moved near Silver Creek where they lived on a farm in Nance County when Sonia's grandmother, Anna Neisius, was just a baby. When Anna married William Rhoades of Fullerton, her parents moved into Silver Creek where they lived until Mathias died in 1925. (William and Anna Rhoades lived on the Neisius farm for a few years, then moved to South Dakota and later to Ewing, Nebraska where their children grew up.)

The Holbrooks are active members of the United Methodist Church where both serve on the Administrative Board and Sonia is a member of the choir and United Methodist Women.

Connie graduated from Central City High School in 1978 and Kathy in 1979 and each was salutatorian of her class. They were also very active in all the girls' sports while in high school as well as participating in the band. Joel also participates in sports, band, and vocal music. *Submitted by Sonia Holbrook*

DR. LEE C. HOLMES

Lee C. Holmes, son of Eric and Judith Chader Holmes, was born near Marathon Iowa. At about seven years of age he moved, with his parents to Hordville, Nebraska. He had five brothers and sisters: Effie (Mrs Stanley Torpin), Annette (Mrs A.A. Abbott), Josephine (Mrs Francis McConnell), Carolyn (Mrs Ralph Miescke), and Carroll Holmes of Grand Island.

Margaret Young was born near Ceresco and at the age of eight, after the death of her father, moved with her mother and sister to the home of her grandparents, where she resided until her marriage. Her grandparents were Mr and Mrs S. B. McHenry. Margaret graduated from eighth grade at Archer, and the Central City High School.

Both Lee and Margaret attended Nebraska Central College. Margaret taught rural school #45 and Archer School. Lee graduated from Nebraska Central College and the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in Omaha in 1941. He took his internship in Yonkers, New York.



Margaret and Lee Holmes

Lee and Margaret were married August 28, 1940, in the old Methodist Church in Central City. In 1943, Dr Holmes entered the armed services and served with the 113th evacuation hospital in the European theatre. After his discharge, they chose to come back to Central City to start a medical practice. He bought Dr. Joe Hutchison's practice, and had a general practice from 1946 to 1957, when he suffered a severe heart attack. Much as he missed working with the Merrick County people he loved so much, he retired from private practice and joined the staff of Veterans Hospital in Grand Island. He worked here until his death October 19, 1971.

Five children were born to this union: Larry, of Albion; Richard, of Davis California; Kathy (Mrs Dale Dubas), of Colorado Springs; Mary (Mrs Randy Hawthorne), of Central City; and Jim, of Grand Island.

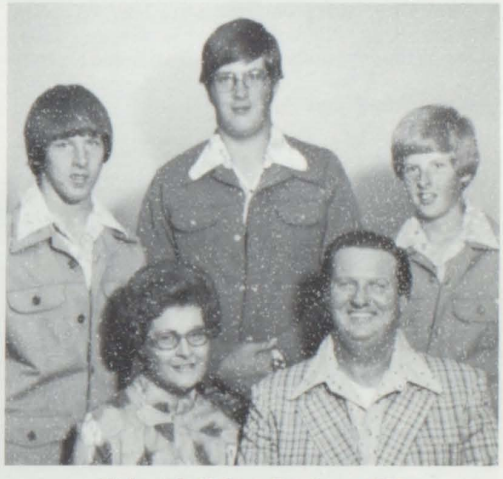
This was a wonderful life in Central City and Merrick county, but it was hard work as usually there were house calls way into the night, and there were no modern hospital facilities available. We were very thankful for Hord Memorial Hospital. If surgery or blood transfusions were necessary, it meant a fast trip to Grand Island. Make-shift baby incubators were made on demand. The tender, loving care was very rewarding, and Dr Holmes, family was always thankful to have chosen Central City as their home.

In 1980, Margaret Holmes was married to John Vergo and they continue to reside in Central City. *Submitted by Margaret Holmes Vergo*

RICHARD & ROSE ANN HOLMES

Richard L. (Joe) son of Jim and Marie Holmes, was born and raised at Fullerton, Nebraska. He graduated from Fullerton High School in 1951. After graduation, he worked in Omaha for a year before joinging the Air Force. After his training, he spent a tour in the Philippines, then was stationed at Reno, Nevada.

Rose Ann, daughter of Cheney and Effie Shelton, was born and raised in Merrick County. She attended rural Districts #18 and #19, and Central City and Archer High Schools, graduating from Archer in 1951. She attended summer session at Nebraska Central College and taught in a rural school for one year, then worked in Central City and Fullerton until she and Joe were married July 22, 1956.



Richard L. Holmes Family — 1977

Joe remained in the Air Force until September, 1973, when he retired at Offutt Air Base, Omaha, with just over 21 years of service. During his time in service they were stationed in Reno, Nevada; Guam, M. I.; Tokyo, Japan (on three different occasions); Warner Robins, Georgia; Riverside, California; and Washington, D.C. Joe also spent a tour in Turkey without the family, and several months at Offutt Air Base just before he retired.

They decided that they wanted to live in Central City in 1972 when Rose was sent back to the States from Japan for surgery. They purchased their home here at that time, and the family moved into it in

August of that year. Joe joined them upon his retirement from the Air Force.

They have a family of three sons. Merle, the oldest, was born at Agana, Guam, on January 23, 1959. Richard was born on July 6, 1961, and Jim on September 19, 1962, both at Warner Robins, Georgia. Merle began school in California, and they all three attended elementary schools in Japan, Virginia, and Central City, Nebraska. All three graduated from Central City High School; Merle in 1977, Richard in 1979, and Jim in 1980.

Merle attended Central Community Technical College in Grand Island for one year and is now a student at the Grand Island Business College. "Rich" married Kristi Held on August 5, 1979. They now live in Marquette, Nebraska, and he is employed at Bill's Volume Sales in Central City. Jim is attending Southeast Community College at Milford, Nebraska.

Joe now works for Safeway in Central City, where he began in 1973 after retiring from the Air Force. Rose has worked part-time as Deputy Clerk of District Court, Merrick County, since April, 1974. Joe is a member of American Legion Post #151 at Fullerton, Nebraska. They are members of the United Methodist Church. *Submitted by Rose A. Holmes*

HANS HOLTORF FAMILY

Hans and Myrtle Holtorf, farmers for forty-one years, have been residents of Merrick County since birth. Hans, born in 1914, and Myrtle in 1915, received their grade school education at District #21. Hans graduated from Central City High School in 1932, Myrtle from Clarks High School in 1934. Both were confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church , Central City, in 1931.

Hans. son of Marx and Amanda Holtorf and Myrtle, daughter of David and Dora Anderson, were married, February 18, 1939, at the Anderson farm home. Their first home was the homestead place of the Holtorf family.

Hans' grandparents, Claus and Catherine Holtorf, settled here in 1878. Claus Holtorf, born December 1841, in Holstein, Germany, came to America in June 1865. Catherine Riemers, native of Germany, came in 1864. They were married in 1867 and lived in Tama, Iowa, where he established a brick yard. In 1878, Claus and Catherine and four children came overland to Merrick County, bringing with them thirty-seven head of cattle and five horses. They homesteaded 160 acres northeast of Central City. Seven children were born to them: Adolph, Rosa Neuhofel, Minnie Grage, John, Marx, Wilhelm, Molly Stuart. All attended District #21.

When Marx and Amanda Holtorf married in 1904, Claus and Catherine moved to Central City, leaving the homestead for the newlyweds. Four children were born to this couple: Fritz, Carl, Marie Petersen, and Hans. They attended District #21. They farmed with horses, fed cattle, raised hogs for thirty-five years. In 1939, son Hans took over the operation.

When Hans and Myrtle began farming, we were in the middle of the drouth years and the depression. Cows were purchased for $40.00. Temperatures ranged over 100 degrees throughout the nights for days at a time. Dust storms raged. Crops were very poor. In November, 1940, the REA came into our area. Electric lights, refrigerators, running water in the house (in 1947), were a great help to the housewife.

In 1943, Hans and his father put down their first irrigation well. Hans purchased a D7 Caterpillar and ten yard scraper to level land for irrigation. Tractors began replacing horse power. Soon hybrid corn was planted, increasing yields considerably. Most of the corn raised was fed to cattle, hogs, and sheep.

Hans was school board director for twenty-one years, in District #21. He was a board member of the Clarks Co-op elevator fifteen years, and was instrumental in the building of the elevator, 1959.

Hans and Myrtle have six children: Christine Huber, Herman, Marilyn Kyes, Arlene McGuy, Elsa Kaiser, and Margaret Heins. They graduated from District #21 and Central City High School. All were confirmed at the Grace Lutheran Church. Eighteen grandchildren have joined the family tree.

In 1978, Hans Holtorf received the Claus Holtorf Pioneer Award from the Knights of Aksarben, for 100 years of ownership within the family, of the same Nebraska farm.

In November, 1979, Myrtle and Hans moved to a home in Central City. Their daughter, Christine, and husband, Curtis Huber and four daughters moved to the Holtorf place. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Hans Holtorf*

AUDREY HONGSERMEIER FAMILY

Audrey Ellen Niedfelt Hongsermeier was born November 24, 1927, at Doniphan, Nebraska, to Diedrick (Dick) and Dorothy Hohmann Niedfelt. She married Ray Hongsermeier on March 9, 1947, at Grand Island. His parents were Fred and Louise Hamann Hongsermeier, and he was born at Grand Island on May 3, 1922.

Audrey and Ray lived on a farm south of Grand Island, then moved to near Chapman. In 1962 they moved to their present farm southeast of Grand Island.



Audrey Niedfelt and Ray Hongsermeier

They are the parents of four children: Paul; Jean Ann, married to Dan Weinert; Susan, married to Howard Jensen; and Sally, a student at Northwest High School. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

BALIE P. HORD FAMILY

Descending from John Hord who came to Virginia in 1685 and settled on the Rappahanock River in today's Caroline County, my grandfather, Balie Peyton Hord, was the son of the Hon. Peyton Hord, Ohio State Representative and stockman. He married Mary Alice Shoots in 1876 at Sandusky, Ohio, and eventually moved to Endicott, Nebraska, where their oldest child Fenton, and then Grandmother Hord, were taken by typhoid fever in 1897. Four children survived: Clifford, Hutchinson, Minor, and Ines. Grandfather married Eva Dawson of Endicott in 1898; moving to Central City, he joined the enterprises of his brother Thomas Benton Hord, engaging in feeding stock and ranching. Children of his second marriage were May Gwynne and Mildred Balie.

After her husband's death in 1902, Eva Hord remained in Central City for over thirty years, seeing her children and step-children to maturity. She will be remembered as the gracious librarian at Hard's Memorial Library. She and Balie moved to Lincoln eventually, to be with her daughter Gwynne, who taught in the Lincoln schools and was later principal of Holmes Elementary School there. Ines Hord married Thomas Gosnell in 1915; children were Mary Alice Gosnell Bulger and Jean Gosnell Cheuvront. This family also moved to Lincoln in the 1930's. Mary Alice now resides in Center, Texas.

Clifford Hord married Susie Cusack and had three children, Clifford Cusack Hord, Edna Hord Quinn and Mary Ellen Hord Miller. He was a banker in Cozad, Nebraska, and after his death in 1936, the family moved to California. A lumber salesman, Hutchinson Hord married Ada Hart and lived in Omaha and Lincoln before settling in Oregon. Their two sons, Allan Jerome and Norman Cedric, continue community service while following their professions of realtor and regional manager for a title company respectively. *Submitted by Mary Hord Limke*



Hans Holtorf Family — 1971

MINOR SHOOTS HORD

Born in Marion, Ohio, in 1886, Minor Shoots Hord came to Central City as a child and lived his life in Merrick County. He attended Central City schools, then worked for the T.B. Hord Company later for the Hoagland Lumber Company, and managed a lumber yard in Paige, Nebraska. He then returned to Central City as foreman of the Minor Hord Sheep Ranch, and the Maplehurst and Teshmaker Ranches over a period of twenty-two years, having a half-interest in the feeding of the sheep and cattle on those ranches for the Hord Company.

In 1911, he married Nell Rice, daughter of Judge and Mrs. W.H.C. Rice. They had three children, 2 boys dying in infancy and a daughter, Mary Margaret. In the 1930's they moved to the Fouts Ranch north of town, and in 1940, purchased the farm Grandfather Rice had homesteaded in Vieregg Township. Wherever my parents lived, they enjoyed the good-will and friendship of all who knew them. They were good neighbors, always ready to help or "just visit." They were well-read, and followed current events faithfully. The family belonged to the Episcopal Church, and my father to the Masonic Lodge.

After his death in 1948, Mother came to Colorado to make her home with me. I married Leon C. Limke, Jr., later that year. Our five children found Mother to be a source of inspiration and good advice, and she loved them dearly. She remains a cheerful, alert lady in our memories though she has been gone since 1969.



Minor S. Hord and Mary

I had a happy childhood among loving relatives, people who always gave their best to the family and the community. Even Depression days are fair in my memory, a calm existence in a small town where everyone knew everyone else. Fine teachers I remember were Rachel Young, Mildred Disney, Harriet Dunlap, Marie Kerr, Vera Strong, Zoe Dorshimer, Alice Watson, Idris Curry. My class graduated in 1944 from CCHS, including Lucille Manning, Lola Chrisp, Jean Beckwith, Shirley Larson, Imogene Clement, Barbara Wolf, Yvonne Nitzel, Bill Kerr, Gordon Ludlow, Jerry Reece, Bob Sinsel, Don Wright, Bill Free, Ed Nelsen, Jim McConnell.

Lee and I make our home in Littleton, Colorado, just south of Denver. He is with the Littleton Historical Museum. My interests in genealogy and my DAR Chapter take much of my time. We both enjoy our six grandchildren immensely! *Submitted by Mary Hord Limke*

HEBER & EFFIE HORD

Heber Hord, son of T.B. and Sarah Hill Hord, was born June 1, 1877, at Marion, Ohio. The family moved to Wyoming in 1881. T.B. Hord was in favor of an advanced education for his son. However, Heber did not complete his college work. He insisted that close association with his father would be a better investment of time. The Hord feeding operations in cattle had grown to some magnitude by the early 1890's. In one year they shipped eleven boat loads of cattle to England and Germany, for a total of 8,000 head. Heber said he went with the first shipload and arrived in Boston on his fifteenth birthday.



Heber and Effie Hord

Heber Hord married Effie Barge on April 12, 1899 at Christ Episcopal Church in Central City. She was born April 24, 1874. Her parents were Robert and Lucy Withrow Barge. They lived on the Home Ranch east of Central City until 1906 when they built a large, fine home in Central City. Their children were Lucile and Thomas B., born January 17, 1902 and February 21, 1905. Lucile and Tom attended Central City school through the eighth grade, when Tom went to Culver and Lucile to Cooperstown, New York for four years.

Heber Hord had the benefit of his father's near genius business leadership until T.B. Hord's health was impaired by ill health in 1908. After his father's death in 1910, he assumed full management responsibility for the far-ranging enterprises, which included ranch properties in northwest Nebraska, and about 20 livestock feeding operations, and 40 grain elevators.

About 5,000 acres of Merrick County land was sold in 1911. The economic stress that overtook the nation in 1929, followed by the drouth and depression years were a financial disaster for the Hord family. Heber Hord should receive respect and admiration for his wise leadership in the recovery of some of the Hord enterprises. Mr. Hord continued a pattern of generosity toward the civic needs of the community.

T.B. Hord had given generously to County needs. One if his gifts was Hord Hall on Nebraska Central College campus. In 1945 the Hord home was presented to the community for use as a hospital and this continued to be the Central City hospital until 1959 when Litzenberg Memorial Hospital was completed.

The site for the post office as well as the library were gifts from the Hord family.

Heber Hord died in November of 1949 and Mrs Hord in April of 1964. Both are buried in the Central City Cemetery. *Submitted by Ted Reeves from material supplied by Hord Family*

THOMAS B. & SARAH HORD

Thomas Benton Hord was born June 15, 1850 at Marion Ohio, the second son of Peyton R. and Mary Hutchinson Hord. He attended country school until he could help with farm labor. After age 12, his schooling was limited. He did have one short term in a business school. Mr. Hord married Sarah Hill on April 5, 1876 at Marion, Ohio. Their son Heber was born June 1, 1877 and daughter Edna on February 6, 1880.

The Hord family moved to Wyoming in 1881. Mr. Hord decided that the range cattle business would be more interesting and profitable than farming and sheep business in Ohio. He purchased an interest in a herd of 2,000 cattle. This herd was developed to a total of 6,000 by 1886. In a severe winter blizzard of that year, 3,000 of these cattle perished. Anticipating a serious weather risk, he had sent 235 cattle to Central City, Nebraska, in 1884, where they were fattened for the slaughter market.

Mr. Hord, with his family moved to Central City in 1885. They established the Home Ranch two miles east of the town. This modest beginning was to become the foundation for the largest livestock feeding operation in Merrick County. In fact, prior to 1900, their business was one of the largest in the nation. As many as 20,000 cattle were fed, in some twenty feeding stations, in a single year.

Their total marketing pattern was interesting. Most of the cattle were sent to the Chicago market. In 1892, six ship loads were sent to London. The son Heber, traveled with other people on one of these early consignments arriving back in Boston on his fifteenth birthday.

In addition to cattle, the Hord activities include the feeding of thousands of sheep. The number of sheep fed in a single year might range from 20 to 80 thousand. Hogs were included in the total livestock program. Prior to 1920, the health risk on these animals was extremely high. Cholera and other diseases made hog feeding a high risk operation.

In addition to the above activities, the Lakeside Ranch Company was started in the sandhill area east of Alliance in 1906. Beginning with the purchase of a number of Kinkaid tracts, the additional land acquired totalled 70,000 acres.

In addition to Mr. Hord's business genius, his complete integrity and character matched his other talents. His concern and interest in the welfare of several hundred employees was generous and sincere. People in managerial areas of responsibility were given a percentage of profits. One of the legends credited to Mr. Hord says that he carried a wallet full of five dollar bills. If one of his laborers, with a scoop, or pitchfork or shovel was doing a commendable piece of work, Mr. Hord took time to compliment him and handed him a five dollar bill. Money had value in those days.



Thomas B. and Sarah Hord

Mr. and Mrs. Hord lived at the Home Ranch until 1899 when a splendid home was built at the present site of Merrick Manor. This home was donated by their son Heber to Central City in June of 1945. The nineteen room home was used for a Community Hospital until 1959. The home was later removed to make way for Merrick Manor, a lovely home for the elderly.

Mr. Hord suffered a light stroke in 1908 and never fully recovered his health. He died on December 24, 1910 and was buried at Marion, Ohio. Mrs. Hord continued to be active in community affairs until her death on March 6, 1938. Her final rites were observed at Marion, Ohio.

While the priority of this book is to record the lives and general progress of the good life for our people, the contribution of the Hord family commands our greatest respect. Considering the positive economic contribution which the Hord enterprises made to Merrick County in the formative period of our history, I am honored to author this modest tribute. *Submitted by Ted Reeves from material supplied by Aurel Hord*

THOMAS & AUREL HORD

Thomas B. Hord, son of Heber and Effie Barge Hord, was born on the Hord Home Ranch near Central City on February 21, 1905. The birth date of an older sister Lucile, was June 17, 1902. After elementary school in Central City, Tom attended Culver Military Academy, and then entered the University of Nebraska in 1923. Following the marriage of Mr. Hord and Aurel Foreman on December 15, 1924, they lived on the Home Ranch until 1951.

The children born to Tom and Aurel Hord were: Thomas Foreman, born February 17, 1926, Douglas Benton, born September 9, 1928 and Sara Geraldine, born June 26, 1935. Geraldine was known as "Gerdi."

In February of 1931, the Hords moved to the ranch at Lakeside. In successive years of ranch management, Tom Hord expanded the activities into a 2,000 head cow-calf operation. They moved to Alliance in 1941 to make school more available to the three children. Young Tom Hord was in military service during the Korean conflict. Both sons attended the University of Nebraska in 1947. Gerdi attended a school in Omaha. In 1947, Thomas and Aurel Hord moved back to the Lakeside ranch where Mr. Hord gave his attention to the management of the ranch.



Tom and Aurel Hord

The senior Hords presently live in the Hord mansion in Central City, spending the winter months at Scottsdale, Arizona. The ranch at Lakeside was sold in 1972. Mr. and Mrs. Hord have given some attention and effort toward renovation of the home and other buildings at the Home ranch.

The epic and legend of the Hord family and their activities in livestock and agriculture in our county are a demonstration of what may be accomplished when both talent and energy are well disciplined and directed toward rewarding goals.

Thomas Foreman Hord married Gloria McCullough of Central City in October of 1948. Their children were: Timmy, November, 1949, Dan, September 9, 1951, Sara, May 22, 1953, Debra, June 6, 1954, Monte, August 24, 1955 and Stacy, September 22, 1956.

Douglas Benton married Nancy Howey on December 15, 1959. Their children were: Robert, December 19, 1953, Mimi July 30, 1959 and David, June 22, 1961.

Sara Geraldine and Stanley Heath were married at Laguna Hills, California on June 18, 1954. They had two children — Heather, born October 24, 1956 and Holly, born July 18, 1961.

Thomas Foreman passed away on July 9, 1973, and Douglas Benton on November 30, 1961. Little Timmy Hord died when he was three and one half years of age. *Submitted by T.C. Reeves from information supplied by Aurel Hord*

CURTIS HUBER FAMILY

Curtis was born February 19, 1935, at Sutton, Nebraska, the oldest child of Reinhardt and Minnie Huber. He attended country school and graduated from Sutton High School in 1953. He worked at various jobs around Sutton until he was drafted into the United States Army in 1957. He served 2 years as a lineman in the Signal Corp, stationed mainly in Massachusetts and Georgia, and was discharged in 1959.



Curtis Huber Family — 1979

Christine was born December 2, 1940, at Central City, Nebraska, the oldest child of Hans and Myrtle Holtorf. She attended District 21 grade school, graduated from Central City High School in 1959, and Lincoln School of Commerce in 1960. After working in Lincoln a year, Christine and Curtis were married June 30, 1961, at Grace Lutheran Church in Central City, Nebraska.

Their first home was on a farm in Polk County, Nebraska, 9 miles northwest of Osceola, owned by Christine's parents. Here they raised livestock, corn, and milo. While living here, 3 daughters were born, Linda Marie, March 11, 1963, Jeanette Kaye April 21, 1964, and Melanie Elaine, September 8, 1969. Linda and Jeanette attended school in Osceola. The family attended church at Calvary Lutheran, at Swede Home.

In May of 1973, the family moved to the Ralph Hamilton farm 6 miles north of Central City, where they raised corn and cattle. The 3 girls attended school in Central City. Darlene Faye was born January 8, 1975, at Osceola, Nebraska. Darlene started kindergarten in the fall of 1980. Melanie is in 6th grade, Jeanette a junior, and Linda a senior. Christine and the girls are active members of Grace Lutheran Church in Central City. Curtis is a member of Salem Reformed Church, at Sutton, Nebraska.

In November, 1979, Christine's parents bought a home in Central City and moved to town. Christine and Curtis built a new home on the Holtorf farm and moved in June 3, 1980. The first night in the new home was very stormy, as this is when the tornadoes struck Grand Island and did much damage. The Hubers are the 4th generation to live on this place, which was homesteaded by Christine's great grandparents, Claus and Catherine Holtorf. *Submitted by Christine Huber*

JANE & A.H. HUBKA JR.

Jane Palu was born December 2, 1952 in Loup City, Nebraska in Sherman County to Ted and Marcella Michalski Palu. Jane moved with her parents to Marquette, Nebraska in 1955 where her father worked for Walter McHargue on the farm. Jane attended school in Marquette until she was a Junior in High School. Then they moved to Central City where she graduated from the Central City High School. Jane then went to the Grand Island Business School where she graduated. She continued to live in Grand Island and worked at the Guranteed Foods.

Jane married Howard Hubka November 25, 1972 in the Catholic Church in Central City.

Howard was born March 16, 1947 in Beatrice to Alvin Howard and Marvel Morehead Hubka. Howard attended grade and High School at Lewiston, Nebraska then attended Milford schools two years where he became a mechanic. He then moved to Central City where he was employed with the Larsen Chevrolet and with LaVerne Shalberg in a filling station then in Clarks at the J.B. McGuin Garage.

In June 1974 Howard bought a shop in Archer, Nebraska which he still owns. Jane and Howard still live in Central City in the same house in which they started their married life together.

Jane helped out at the Lincoln Manor where her mother was employed, then she was employed at Randy's Meats until 1979 and since has been employed at the Multi- Purpose Center where she enjoys working with the Senior Citizens.

Jane has a brother Tom Palu who graduated from the Marquette schools and now lives in Central City. She has a sister Patricia who is married to Merv Luschei. They had two children, Shelia and Tim. Merv was killed in 1974 in a motorcycle accident. Then she married Dennis Johnson in 1978 and lives on a farm between Central City and Chapman. They have one daughter. Another sister, Barbara, married Donn Swedenberg of Clarks and they live in Pocatello, Idaho. They have one child, Michael. Another brother, Jerry, graduated from the Marquette Schools and lives in Central City and is employed at Irvin and Mundorf.

DANIEL & ADELLA HUDNALL

Daniel Webster Hudnall stayed on the original Hudnall homestead north of Chapman. He married Adella Widman of Chapman and together they raised four children. Daniel was a shrewd businessman and the farm prospered. He owned one of the first cars in Chapman, a Buick which he named "Old Buck." Adella was a quiet woman who was known for her active participation in the Baptist Church and her Christian concern for neighbors and friends.

Their children grew up and married in the Chapman area. Ethel Arlene married Fred B. Fogg and after running a store in Chapman for several years, they moved to Oregon in 1938. Ethel Hudnall Fogg was a dedicated educator and is still remembered by many Merrick County residents as a teacher who



Daniel and Adella Hudnall with their two children, Ernest and Ethel in 1896 on the original Hudnall homestead.

had great influence on their lives.

Ernest married Blanche Raser in 1920 and established a home just south of the homeplace on the 80 acres of land his father had purchased from his grandfather, about 1897, for $20 an acre.

Esther Rachel and her husband, P.L. "Pete" Hedlund farmed in Merrick County until 1941. They had eight children, most of whom were raised and educated at Chapman. Esther, now widowed, still makes her home in California.

Vernon and his wife, Myrtle raised three children on the homeplace where he lived until his death in 1954.

Adella Widman Hudnall died in 1917. Daniel Webster Hudnall remarried in September of 1920. Ada Page Hudnall died in 1924. Daniel died at the age of sixty-seven in 1937 after a long illness. *Submitted by Bonnie Gelling*

ERNEST & BLANCHE HUDNALL

Less than eighty rods from where he was born, Ernest Hudnall broke the first twenty acres for his farm from original sod with two horses and a twelve-inch breaking plow in 1909. He broke the last original sod in 1956 using a tractor. Between those two events were World War I and Company E, 355th Infantry, his marriage in 1920 to Blanche Raser, the building of their home just north of Chapman, and the raising of their children. Presently, four generations of Hudnalls are living within a half mile of the place homesteaded by William Hudnall in 1867.

November 10, 1980 marked the sixtieth anniversary of the couple. Those 60 years reflect a wide range of life. Ernest participated in county corn-shucking contests, had the distinction of owning one of the first radios in Chapman, and has had a lifetime interest in amateur photography. An expert marksman, he held membership in the National Rifle Association and at eighty-seven years of age can still bring down two starlings with one shot. An able carpenter, he constructed all of the buildings on the farmstead and one half of the house. An avid reader and traveler of the United States, he has maintained a vital link between the past and the present for his children, his thirteen grandchildren, and twenty great grandchildren. Blanche is an active worker in Chapman Baptist Church, where she has taught Sunday School classes, sung solos during services, and served as White Cross chairman. She was a member of W.C.T.U for many years and is a charter member of the Friendly Club. She has instilled in her family an appreciation for the beauty of God's world and a concern for those around them.

Their children are: Bonnie Hudnall Gelling, a teacher in Central City; Warren Hudnall, a farmer who lives on the original homestead; Lois Hudnall Killion, a homemaker in Elm Creek; and Nola Hudnall Oberhelman, a librarian in the Omaha Public School system.

Like others of their generation, their lives have experienced great changes, in the world around them. Throughout the many changes, they have created an unchanging home atmosphere where friends and family are always welcomed and where those in need have often been sheltered.

They are living in the home they built in 1922 located one fourth mile north of Chapman. *Submitted by Bonnie Gelling*

WILLIAM & SUSANNA HUDNALL

William Hudnall filed on a SE quarter, 6 township 12 north of range 7 in Grand Island May 20, 1862. The deed was not recorded until 1880 and signed then by R.B. Hayes. William, born in 1829, returned to his homestate Virginia and served an enlistment in the Virginia calvary during the Civil War and then served another enlistment from Ohio. It was here that William and Susanna Cramer Hudnall's family — three daughters and six sons — was born. They came to Nebraska when the youngest was three. There is no record of how they travelled to Nebraska. The oldest daughter, Ethel, was married and stayed in Ohio when the rest of the family came west. While records of her life and family are lost, the other eight children grew up and married in the Chapman area.

Elizabeth married John Hartman, moved to Missouri, and returned to Nebraska. Mary and her husband, George Hale, moved from the farm to run a Central City bakery before moving to Washington state in 1902.



William and Susanna Hudnall and 8 children in front of their home north of Chapman

Harvey farmed east of Chapman along with his brother, William, until William returned to New York state for the rest of his life. Albert moved to Washington state and Horace moved to Oregon. Horace returned to Chapman for a few years before a final move to Imperial, Nebraska. Averill moved to Oklahoma in 1893, travelling by covered wagon. That same year William and Susanna bought another 160 from the railroad that lay between the homestead and Chapman. This purchase reflected how times had changed since 1876, when William had to borrow $80 to keep going.

The youngest son, Daniel Webster, remained on the original homestead. The original house, built of white pine full inch boards, measured 16 x 24 feet and consisted of two rooms. Part of the original house is built into the present house on the homestead. The framework of the barn, which was mortised and wooden pegged, still stands, as does a granary on this site. The first cattle shed was built with oak poles hauled from the Loup River and covered first with hay and then with wheat straw. Ten acres of the farms were fenced with a sod fence.

One of William Hudnall's brothers, Nathan, came to Nebraska and settled on the farm ½ mile west of William's homestead.

Susanna Cramer Hudnall died at Chapman in 1897. William died in 1907. *Submitted by Bonnie Gelling*

ANTON HUMMEL FAMILY

Anton Hummel was born in 1838 in Germany. He came to America at the age of nine with his parents, who like many Germans of those times emigrated to avoid military conscription. Anton served in the Civil War and fought in the battles of Gettysburg and Chancellorville. He married Ursula Jakoby in 1867 in Pennsylvania. They had four children and came to Merrick County in 1880. They farmed three years and went back to Pennsylvania only to return, this time to Kansas where they were thwarted in their efforts to purchase a farm because the owner was a minor and their attorney advised against the same. In 1883, they bought a farm nine miles northwest of Central City where they spent their remaining years farming. All of their children lived their lives in Merrick County. They were:

John C., born in 1868, married Anna Folkerts of Central City in 1890, three children born on their farm, joined his father in grain threshing, sold his farm in 1906 to begin Hummel Implement Company in Central City. He died of pneumonia in 1924 and wife Anna died in 1951. They were the parents of Carl, born in 1891, who lived all but the final eleven years of his life in the Archer-Central City communities, passing away in Denver in 1955; Ruth Nelson, born in 1899, living in Sargent, Nebraska; and, Clarence, born in 1904, living all of his life in Central City until his passing in 1967.

Two daughters, Anna born in 1869 and Lena born in 1870. Neither married but shared the farm work, including everything from the kitchen to the fields. They are remembered for the butter they churned and pressed into a one-pound print wooden bowl and sold in town. Anna died in 1933 and Lena died in 1945.

Chris T., born in 1872, married Emma Kreitman of Madison, Nebraska in 1903, farmed until his death in 1952 having survived his wife by 17 years. Chris and Emma had five children: an infant daughter who died at birth in 1904; Anthony born in 1905; Charles born in 1907 and died in 1937; Raymond born in 1909 and Marie born in 1914. Anthony married Fern Adamson of Palmer in 1931 and had four children ... Anthony, Jr. who died in 1969, Mildred Smith and Earl of Lebanon, Oregon, and Ralph of Toledo, Oregon. Anthony and family moved to Oregon in 1940, returning to Merrick County in 1953 for two years, and returned to Oregon where he died in 1980, of cancer. Chris' daughter Marie lived on the family farm until her marriage to Lou Friedrichsen in 1952 when they moved to her farm, where they farmed until Lou's death in 1961. Today, Marie farms her place ten miles northwest of Central. Raymond acquired the Anton Hummel farm and homesite, married Allie Abbott of Chapman in 1938, and today farms the original place nine miles northwest of town.

Raymond, wife Allie, and sister Marie are looking forward to celebrating 100 years of continuous farm ownership in the Hummel name come 1983. *Submitted by John W. Hummel, Raymond Hummel and Marie Friedrichsen*

CLARENCE HUMMEL FAMILY

Clarence W. Hummel was born in 1904, youngest of three children of John C. and Anna Folkerts Hummel. At the time of his birth, his family lived on their farm nine miles northwest of Central City. The farm was sold in 1906 and the family came to Central City where the elder Mr. Hummel opened an implement business. A brother Carl, born in 1891 was a rural mail carrier and lived in the Archer and Central City communities until 1944 when he moved to Denver, passing away there in 1955. Carl's wife, Nerva Ray Hummel and their daughters, Dorothy Sydenham, Lucille Coates, Jean Munsell and Ruth Zick survive him. A sister, Ruth, born in 1899 married John Nelson and lives today in Sargent, Nebraska. Mr. Nelson was a rural mail carrier and passed away in 1956. Their son Keith is a state engineer in North Platte; son Donald is an administrator with Grand Island CTCC living in Grand Island; and daughter Donna Carroll is a teacher living in Rosewell, New Mexico.

Clarence graduated from high school in 1922, was employed by Mansfield Grocery (of Central City) and in 1930 married Martha Sandeman of Central City. They owned and operated the C & M Hummel Grocery before selling out in 1939. He was employed by Bishop Hardware, T.B. Hord Grain Co. and the Nebraska Railway Commission prior to his death from cancer in 1967. He was an avid golfer

and was active in the Presbyterian Church. Clarence is survived by his wife Martha and two sons, as follows:

Robert T., born in 1940 in Central City where he graduated from high school and later graduated from the University of Nebraska. Married to Betty Miller of Indianola, Nebraska in 1965, employed as bank officer for banks in Grand Island and Crofton, Nebraska before returning to Central City in 1973 to own and operate a vending machine business and lounge. Now lives in Overland Park, Kansas with his wife and three daughters, Kristen born in 1963, Angie born in 1967, and Sarah born in 1976.

John W., born in 1936 in Central City, graduated from high school there and from the College of Law, University of Nebraska. Married to Eunice McCosh of Gering, Nebraska in 1960, employed as trust officer for a Nebraska bank and trust department manager for banks in Wyoming and Nevada before returning to Central City in 1975, where he now practices law with the firm of Sampson, Curry & Hummel. Two children, both born in Lincoln, are Steven in 1964 and Gretchen in 1966. Both are attending Central City High School. John serves on the boards of Litzenberg Memorial County Hospital and Merrick Foundation. Eunice serves on the School Board and is active in the musical life of church and community.

Steven and Gretchen are the fifth generation of Hummels in Merrick County. *Submitted by John W. Hummel*

EDWARD HUNSCOTE FAMILY

February 22, 1911, Edward Lawrence Hunscote and Mildred Elizabeth Turner were united in marriage at the Turner home northwest of Fullerton. Ed was born on October 5, 1888, on a Merrick County farm east of Silver Creek. He and his three younger sisters moved with their parents to Fullerton in 1900 where he attended school. From his earliest years, he loved the land and animals, and thoroughly enjoyed work his entire life. As a young man he liked to hunt and was an avid reader, especially of historical and travel materials.



Mildred and Edward Hunscote — 60th Anniversary

Mildred was the daughter of Samuel Blackwell and Elizabeth Treadway Turner, being born November 21, 1892 on the family farm near Fullerton. She had a twin brother, Miles, and two older brothers. Her mother died when she was five, and the father kept the family together, but Mildred was shifted from one aunt's family to another until age ten when she went home to keep house for her father and brothers. She attended Cedar Valley School and Fullerton High School. It was difficult for such a young girl to keep house with all its responsibilities, and to keep up her school work. She was quite artistic and soon became a very good seamstress, an exceptionally good cook, and enjoyed crafts. When she was eighteen, she became Ed's bride. After the wedding, they drove by horse and buggy to a farm two miles northwest of Clarks which the Hunscote family had purchased from John Gorgan. That farm was to be their home for the next thirty-three years. The farm is presently owned and operated by the Hunscote's only child, Joyce Nadine and her husband, Bill Kuhn.

Mildred became active in the Clarks Congregational Church. Ed had banking interests, served on the Township and School Boards, and the old Farmer's Union Board. He and a neighbor, Fred Philbrook, had a threshing rig and during the 1920's and 30's, the Hunscotes had a small dairy, milking from sixteen to twenty-four cows by hand and delivering into Clarks every day but Sundays. During the 30's, Ed and a hired man, Charlie Brinkman, cut and hauled wood throughout the winter to people in Clarks. Mildred supplemented the family income by baking and decorating angel food cakes for birthdays and weddings.

In 1944, the Hunscote's held a farm sale and moved to Clarks where Ed became manager of Farmer's Union Elevator and Mildred helped with the books. They purchased the Morgan family home — the house behind the Methodist Church. In the 1960's when the old Co-op was dissolved, Ed retired from the elevator.

In 1971 they observed their sixtieth wedding anniversary, and May 29 of that year, Ed died at age eighty-two. Mildred maintained her home until 1976 when ill health forced her to move to Litzenberg Hospital Long Term Care Unit in Central City where she presently resides. *Submitted by Joyce Hunscote Kuhn*

ARCH & THELMA HUNTER

Arch Hunter was born in Lincoln County south of North Platte, where during his early years, he helped his father and brothers with their farming and cattle. He enlisted in the military service in 1918 and spent thirteen months in France and Germany. After being discharged, he enrolled in the Grand Island Business College. But after a term, he decided that farming and ranching was more to his liking. He went onto a farm south of Sutherland on what is now the Sutherland Reservoir. In 1928, he was united in marriage to Thelma Metzer of Silver Creek. She had graduated from the high school in that town and, after attending Kearney State College, she taught school in Duncan until their marriage. They had three children: William, still at Silver Creek at this writing (1981), Dora Marie Smith of Anaheim, California, and Drusills May Jones, now living in Huntington, Indiana. In 1932, the Hunter family moved from Sutherland to Merrick County onto the A.P. Sutton farm, one and one half miles northeast of Silver Creek. The farm at that time was owned by C.R. Metzer.

Both of the Hunters were members of the United Methodist Church and were active in 4-H work. Both had served on the school board of District 10. Arch was also a member of the American Legion. While he kept up to date in his farming, having switched from horses to tractors for farm power and had installed one of the first irrigation wells in eastern Merrick County, his greatest interest was in livestock. At the time of his death in 1964, he had an outstanding herd of purebred registered Herefords. *Submitted by Thelma Hunter*

HENRY HUSMANN FAMILY

Henry Husmann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Husmann, was born at Hanover, Germany July 23, 1866. At tne age of sixteen he came to America and directly to Grand Island, Nebraska. Later on he sent for his parents.

On March 4, 1891 he was united in marriage to Betty Ehlers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ehlers who came to the homestead near Grand Island, Nebraska in a covered wagon from living near Davenport, Iowa.

After residing in Grand Island for six years, they moved to the farm north of Chapman, Nebraska now being farmed by his grandson, Virgil Husmann.

Mr. and Mrs. Husmann were the parents of seven children, namely Otto Husmann, Theodore Husmann, Mrs. Walter (Bertha) Green, Mrs. Henry (Mamie) Duennermann, Henry F. Husmann, Mrs. Fred (Alyce) Schleichardt and Mrs. John (Mylda) Hruza.

Mr. Husmann was a successful farmer and became an extensive operator in raising black angus cattle and feeding enterprises. In 1925 Mr. and Mrs. Husmann retired from the farm, moving to their new home in Chapman. Their sons Otto, Theodore and Henry Junior continued with the farming.

Otto was united in marriage to Ella Reher from Grand Island. Their children are Kenneth, Robert, Ernest, Beverly and Dorothy. Otto passed away in 1961. Ella remarried, is now Mrs. Leroy Nelson, Hordville, Nebraska.

Theodore was united in marriage to Linda Hueneke. They are the parents of one daughter, Mrs. Fred (Caroline) Speed.

Bertha was united in marriage to Walter Green. They are the parents of one daughter, Mrs. Ira (Betty Jane) Reisener. Bertha passed away in 1962. Walter lived in Clarks, Nebraska to be near his daughter for eleven years, and is now a resident of Bethesda Care Home in Central City, Nebraska. The Greens farmed between Chapman and Grand Island, Nebraska. Mamie was united in marriage to Henry Duennermann. They resided on a farm near Grand Island. They are the parents of one daughter, Mrs. Vern (Bernice) Frauen. Henry passed away in 1958. Mamie now resides in Grand Island.

Alyce was united in marriage to Fred Schleichardt from Grand Island. Their children are Norman and Donald both of Grand Island, Nebraska. Fred passed away in 1969 and Alyce in 1972.

Mylda was united in marriage to John C. Hruza of Central City, Nebraska. They have two children, Mrs. Orvis (Janet) Larsen of Pinole, California and John Douglas of Lorton, Virginia. Mylda and John reside in Central City, Nebraska *Submitted by (Grand daughter) Mrs. Ira Reisener*

ARBOR & LUCILE HUTCHINSON
THE GOLDEN YEAR — 1975

Fifty years have just passed by
Since we told each other, dear,
That we'd share life's joys and sorrows
Close together year by year.

This all started in Nebraska,
We were at Nebraska Central,
When a friend introduced us,
We took it up from there.

We met again at church one evening
After a stormy day;
I asked if I could take you home,
She blushed and said, "You may."

Well, time went by, and then one night
I asked you to be my wife,
And fifty years ago today
We said "I do" for life.

We started out so simple,
We felt like a king and queen;
Had we known what was ahead
It may have changed the scene.

We weathered the drouths and blizzards,
We've watched the winds destroy trees;
We watched the hail destroy crops
And passed through thick and thin.

Fourteen months later our dreams came true,
God gave us a baby girl,
We named her Loraine, and I'm sure you know
She's been our pride and joy.

Thirteen months later our dreams came true,
God gave us a baby boy,
We named him Vancil, and I'm sure you know
He's been our joy and sailor boy.

We continued to dream, twenty months later
God gave us another girl,
She was named Marilyn, and I'm sure you know
She also has been our pride and joy.

With five in our family, times were hard,
We had to move on, to make our support,
Safeway sent us to North Platte, 180 miles;
Our Model T carried us to the new work.

Our dreams multiplied, fourteen months later
God saw fit to bless us with twins,
We named them Donna Mae and Donnita Mae,
On October 5, father's birthday present.

The Lord giveth — The Lord taketh away
July 1960, the Lord called Donnita Home,
The Home where JOY forever dwells
Where loved ones wait, beyond the
Heavenly Gate.

We have traveled many highways,
Of all the western states,
Over mountains and across the desert,
Finding sunshine and shadows.

Still we're traveling on together
Partners in this game of life,
Hand in hand we travel on,
First friends, lovers, man and wife.

Life could hold no richer blessings,
As the years pass swiftly by,
Than to find us still good comrades,
Sweethearts, partners, you and I.

Written by Arbor Ray Hutchinson
Summer 1975

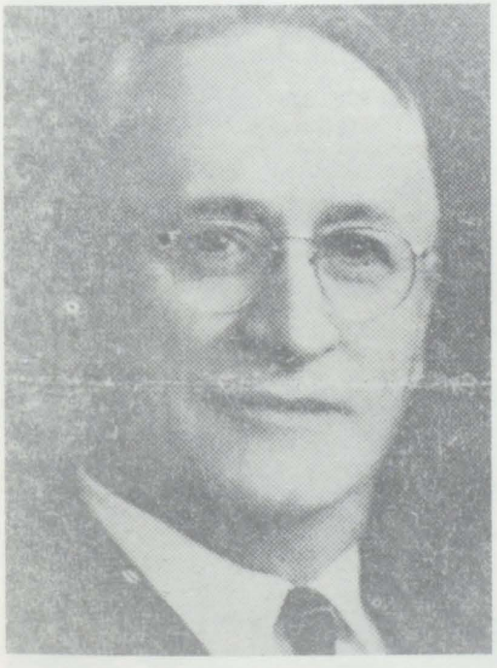
And there before the altar,
We saw this youthful pair;
The groom was tall and manly,
The bride was sweet and fair.

And there before high heaven
They took a solemn vow
To love and trust each other,
And they've kept it e'en 'till now.
Anonymous: — Selected.

Read at the reception on September 27, 1975 by our son-in-law Samuel J. Holsinger. *Arbor Ray and Lucile Gertrude Hutchinson*

DR. JOE W. HUTCHISON

Dr. Hutchison began his medical practice in Marquette, Nebraska. After practicing there a few years, he came to Central City where he and Dr. Fred Fouts officed together until about 1926. He then moved to his own offices above what, in 1981, is Dr Osborne's dental office. Here he continued to meet the special needs of Merrick County citizens until about 1946, when poor health forced his retirement from active practice.



Dr. J. W. Hutchison

The youngest son of John A. and Elizabeth Ross Hutchison, he was born November 11, 1877 in Hazel del Township, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. He received his early education there and later attended Fremont Normal at Fremont, Nebraska. After teaching a short time in Boomer Township in Iowa, he went to Drake University in Des Moines, graduating from the College of Pharmacy. Pharmacy was not to his liking and he enrolled at Creighton School of Medicine and graduated from that college in 1911, coming immediately to Marquette, Nebraska, and soon to Central City.

In 1914, Joe Hutchison and Vera Surface, a talented vocalist and artist, were married. Their only child was Jody Hutchison, whose adult life was spent in New York and California. Mrs. Hutchison died in October of 1930.

Dr. Joe Hutchison was a general family practitioner and family doctor. His practice included house calls and response to all health needs in the adjacent rural areas.

In addition to the Doctor's professional skills, his temperment and personality were additional contributions to the welfare and needs of his patients . His constant optimism and general good humor were a part of the therapy that most of his patients needed. Dr. Hutchison's years of active practice were served during a period of time when the family doctor and the family pastor served as counselors to many families who were overtaken by crises and distress.

His active practice included the depression years of the 1930's. Many families were in financial distress, but the good doctor responded to all calls. Undoubtedly he was not compensated for the full value of services rendered.

He was one of the many good citizens who dedicated their skills and energies to make the good life in Merrick County even better. His death occurred on September 3, 1962. The Central City cemetery is his final resting place. *Submitted by Portia Reeves*

HUXFORD

Andrew J. and Dilemma Burton Huxford, who brought their family to Lone Tree in 1871, were my great-grandparents. They traveled in a Union Pacific box-car, equipped for housekeeping, from Indiana.

Zoe Dorshimer Mack, their granddaughter, recalls tales told by her grandmother: of dreadful blizzards, of the grasshopper years of 1874 and 1875, and of how they made friends with the Indians — except they could never have a dog which didn't wind up in the tribal soup-pot. Strongly Methodist, they entertained the itinerant preachers, and helped establish a local church.

About 1900, the family moved into town (by then called Central City). Dilemma died in 1908; Andrew remained hale-and-hearty through his late eighties.

My paternal grandparents were William (older son of Andrew and Dilemma) and Favoretta Howe Huxford. Grandpa had bought a quarter-section of Union Pacific land in District 12, paying $2.00 per acre, rather than homestead as his parents had done. There were two children, Ethie (McKay), and J. Eldon. Favoretta was a bookish person, reserved in her personal relationships. She wrote articles and poems, some of which were printed in the county paper. Long a semi-invalid, she died when I was only eight. Grandpa sold the farm in 1919, to Frank Widman (one of whose sons still has the place), and we all moved into town. He died in 1923.

In 1906, Eldon married Leonore Chandler (only daughter of Don P. and Lillian Ives Chandler, who also farmed in Merrick County.) They set up housekeeping in a small house on grandpa's farm, and soon were busy with a family of four: Dorothy (Moore/Kramer), Aline (Nielsen), Winona (Reid), and William (Bill) Eldon.

In the mid-thirties, my parents moved to Bowdon Junction, Georgia, where Dad died in 1946. Mother returned to Central City for a number of years, lived with me in California for almost twenty years, and Aline now makes a home for her here. She has just celebrated her ninety-third birthday. Winona lives in Bowdon Junction, Georgia, Bill is in Phoenix, Arizona and I am recently "returned home" after having lived in California since 1933.

Bill married Helen Wright, of Tilden, Nebraska. They have three sons, Hollis, William, and Bruce. William has a daughter, Marissa; Bruce has twin sons, Scott and Alan, now about twelve. Most of the family resides in Phoenix.

"More-some" Grandpa Andrew often drove out



J. Eldon and Leonore Huxford
1906

to the farm for a visit. Both he and Grandpa were good with children, tolerating "participation" as they played dominos, answering questions, sharing the peppermint drops carried loose in their pockets. "More-some" had another charm: he would allow us to finger the gold chain across his vest, its several seals, and the chiming watch which wound with a tiny key.

Grandpa was my pal. He took me into the fields, planting and cultivating; when he was school assessor, I "helped" on his surveys of school-population; together, we walked to get the daily mail — always he read the "Peter Rabbit" installment to me before turning to the news. He taught me to read, spell, and add before I entered school; and there was music: symphonic excerpts and operatic arias recorded for the spool-type phonograph. I wish I could have told him that he was, during those formative years, the most influential, the most beloved person in my life! *Submitted by Dorothy Huxford Kramer*

ILER-SOWL

Grandfather Leonard Lee Iler moved from Pella, Iowa, to Osceola, Nebraska in the 1870's. Grandfather was a farmer. In the winter time, about 1900, Grandfather moved his family to a farm north of Clarks, by Pierce Chapel. They had just got over the Platte River Bridge when an ice jam took out the bridge.

Grandfather lived north of Clarks for a while, then moved to just north of Central City. He farmed the Pawnee Ranch. Mom spent her summers growing up on the Pawnee Ranch.

Grandfather married twice, and had nine chil-



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sowl

dren.

His daughter Emily married David Wilson who was postmaster at Clarks for many years.

Milton Iler married Mayble Brannon. He was Sheriff of Merrick County, from 1907 to 1911.

Aunt Zella married George Bice of Central City. Aunt Zella is ninety-nine years old, and lives in Idaho.

My grandmother, Laura Iler, married W.S.P. Eyler who was a barber in Fullerton. Their daughter, Margaret, is my mother. She married Fred Sowl. Dad's father was Benjerman Franklin Sowl. He came from Minnesota. In the 1860's his family, the Henry Sowls, came to Nebraska. Franklin Sowl married Nancy Richards. The Richards came from Indiana. Grandma's brother was Jay Richards, Jay owned the farm just west of Pierce Chapel.

Grandpa and Grandma had nine children.

Sady married Daniel Shively. His mother was the second person to be buried in Pierce Chapel. Hattie married Frank Gay, a farmer from Central City. Wilma married John Rock. Theda married Tom Powers. All of the above are buried at Pierce Chapel.

Fred Sowl, my dad, was a farmer, then a barber. Mom went to Kearney State and then taught school on the Ridge between Merrick and Nancy County.

Mom and Dad had seven children. All graduated in Merrick County High Schools.

Fred Sowl barbered for over fifty years, he was twelve years in Fullerton, eleven years in Silver Creek. During the war, he helped build the ordinance plant in Grand Island. Then he made bombs.

In 1946, Mom and Dad bought the Kyes house in Central City. Dad barbered with Bill Solt. Then he got a barber shop in the State Theater. He barbered for twenty-five years in Central City. Mom is eight-eight years old now and lives in her own home with my sister Sharon. I'm married to Vernon Johnson. We work and live on the Hord Ranch east of Central City. *Margaret Johnson*

JENNIE FULLERTON IRVIN

Jennie M. the third child born to David T. and Emma Fullerton was born near Swanwick, Perry County, Illinois October 19, 1881. In August 1884 the family moved to Palmer, Nebraska where her father purchased an eighty acre farm northeast of town. She attended grade school in Palmer and graduated from the Palmer High School. There is an unaccounted for period from the time that the farm was sold to Mrs. Fullerton's brother Albert and the family moving to Central City. As I recall, they lived in or near Fullerton a few years. After finishing high school she took nurses training in Lincoln, Nebraska.

While employed there as a nurse, she met Dr. I. W. Irvin. On November 20, 1907 they were married in Lincoln. They made their home in Brock where the doctor was practicing. In 1908 they moved to Auburn, Nebraska where they lived the rest of their lives. They were active members of the Auburn Christian Church. Jennie was a member of the Eastern Star and other groups. Dr. Irvin served as council member, mayor, on the school board and the library board.



Dr. I. W. Irvin Family — 1936
L-r— Roy, Robert, Gerald, Dr. I. W., and Jennie.

In addition to her many other activities, she was an accomplished artist. Her beautiful flower and country scenes in water color were well known. Her hand painted china, with exquisite form and detail as those fortunate enough to have a complete set or even a single piece, can verify.

When Dr. Irvin passed away June 5, 1969 at the age of ninety-three he was Nebraska's oldest practicing physician. Mrs. Irvin, the last survivor of the David and Emma Fullerton family, passed away September 7, 1975 at the age of 93. Both are buried in the Sheridan Cemetery at Auburn, Nebraska near a son Raymond who died in infancy.

Dr. and Mrs. Irvin were survived by three sons and their families.

Gerald and Dorothy along with their son, Don. Sahuarita, Arizona.

Robert and Catherine and their children, Jane, Carrie Sue, Richard, Bobby and Juley. Lincoln, Nebraska.

Roy of Brownville, Nebraska. *Submitted by G. W. Irvin*

FRANCIS J. JANKY FAMILY

Francis's grandparents came from Czechoslovakia, mine from Germany. Grandfathers lived to be ninety-six and ninety-one years. Grandmothers didn't live long. My grandmother passed away when Mother was six years old. The women in our families cooked, washed, sewed, and raised families without babysitters and modern conveniences.



Francis and Mary Janky

There were four generations that served on the District #29 School Board. Thirty students and one teacher wasn't unusual. Graduating students included doctors, etc. . . Our fathers went to District #29 as we did, and our son was the third generation to attend. A Janky was in school from the time Francis started until our son graduated thirty-five years later.

Daddy Frank Janky was County Supervisor eight years. He loved music. The Janky Orchestra played many barn dances, weddings, etc. . . Francis started playing in the orchestra at sixteen and played forty years.

Daddy Emil Muller was active in township affairs and was a road overseer during W.P.A. He was an instigator for the R.E.A. and director of the Chapman — Archer Telephone Company. He loved horses. When his grandson was eight months old, he bought him a horse.

We attended Chapman High School. I went to Grand Island Business College. Francis is the only charter member of the Chapman Rural Fire Protection District, being secretary-treasurer since its origin in 1951. He was director of the Chapman — Archer Telephone Company and an insurance company for many years. He was an insurance appraiser for fifteen and one-half years. I was bookkeeper of the Chapman — Archer Telephone Company twelve and one-half years, an assistant precinct assessor for Merrick County for fourteen years, secretary-treasurer for an insurance company five years, secretary-treasurer for another company for eight years, and treasurer twelve years and still hold the position.

We were married in 1934. Our first years of marriage, we farmed with horses and picked corn in a two wheel cart. Both our fathers had threshing machines and Francis had a corn sheller. They all did custom work. The Muller farm was four generations until recently.

Our son, Gary Dean, while bringing the cows in for milking, would go over a hill and put on a rodeo show for the neighbors. Gary Dean played ball and was a pitcher for the Central City Junior Legion when they were state runners-up in 1956 and 1957. He attended Grand Island Business College, worked at Nash-Finch thirty months and then nine and one-half years at New Holland. He also farmed and milked cows. In 1974 he and his wife, Sandy, decided to become missionaries. They graduated from Arlington College in Texas and are now missionaries in Quito, Ecuador in South America. They have three children. Tammi graduated from high school in 1980 and now attends Arlington College. Timothy and Thomas are with their parents, and both are athletically inclined.

Mother Janky lived with us for a time before passing away. My mother lives with us now.

We are retired farmers and have the land rented out but still live on the farm. *Submitted by Mary Rose Janky*

JOSEPH & HELEN JANKY

Joseph Thomas Janky was born December 20, 1915, four miles northwest of Chapman, at his parents' home. He was the second son of Frank J. and Fannie Nabity Janky. Baptized and confirmed at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Central City, Joe was a life-long member of that congregation. He attended grade school at District #29, and graduated from Chapman High School in 1934.

Helen Ruzicka was the seventh and last child of Alois and Mary A. Coufal Ruzicka. Born July 27, 1919, at Loma, Nebraska, in Butler County, she was baptized at St. Luke's Catholic Church in Loma, and later confirmed at St. Michael's in Central City. In 1925, the Ruzicka family moved to a farm near Stromsburg, moving again three years later to another farm northeast of Polk. Helen received her education in Polk County Schools and attended Assumption High School in Dwight, Nebraska.

Joe and Helen became acquainted at an early age, as both families attended the same church. Their coursthip included many parish dances. They were married June 2, 1937, at St. Michael's. Joe's sister, Helen, and Helen's brother, Joe, were married at the same time. The double ceremony, featuring two couples named Helen and Joe, all brothers and sisters, was a noteworthy event in the area, and the photographer from Grand Island Jack Bailey had an article printed in the papers about it. Father Brady officiated.



Joseph and Helen Janky — 1962

The newlyweds started their life together on the farm two miles north and one-half mile west of Joe's folks' place, on what was known as the Joseph B. Svitak Farm. Their union was blessed with Ronald, Elaine, Joyce, Marlene, David, Robert, Judy, Paul, Barbara, Karen, Mark, Joseph, John, Mary, and Michelle.

Joe played saxaphone in his father's polka band before and for a short time after his marriage. Helen played piano. She sang in St. Michael's choir, and has been church organist there for the past three years. They gave up playing with the band soon, as milking cows and staying out late with the band didn't complement each other. The farm got electricity in 1940 from REA, making irrigation wells possible after leveling the land. Joe had a small dairy which kept his family financially secure.

As the children were growing up, all helped out on the farm. Most were very active in schools sports . The children have all attended college; Michelle is a junior in Central City High School, and plans to further her education after graduation. Ten of the children are married, and there are twenty-seven grandchildren. Four of Joe and Helen's daughters are registered nurses.

Joe passed away May 25, 1977, following a lingering illness. Helen continues to live on their farm while Joe and John, carry on with the farming. *Submitted by Mrs. Helen Janky*

JOE JANOVEC FAMILY

Joe and I became acquainted when I was teaching at District #29 west of Chapman, Nebraska, a school I taught for three years . I was boarding at his family's home while he was in the Armed Forces. He returned in January, 1946. On August 26, 1947 we were married in my home parish of St. Peter's in Clarks. We made our home on a farm two and a half miles north of Chapman which we rented from Martin A. Larson for two years, and then moved to the place where we now live and built our new home in 1950. It was enjoyable for me to continue to live in the neighborhood where I had taught and to watch the progress of the young people.



Joe Janovec Family — **Back l-r** — Dennis and Rita Burch. **Front l-r** — Joe, Marcelline and David.

In 1951, we adopted the first of our three children, David J. Janovec. In 1953, a little girl came to spend her life with us — namely, Rita Janovec now Burch. In 1955, Dennis A. Janovec came to complete our family. Joe and I have always said that these were the happiest moments of our married life, and the children have never failed to bring us joy. With their marriages, they have been blessed with children — namely, Jennifer Anne and Alison Lynn Janovec, children of David and Cheryl Janovec — Justin Dean Burch, son of Rita and Don Burch — and Victoria Jolene Janovec, daughter of Dennis and Kathy Janovec. We truly enjoy these grandchildren. Also, they all live close by so we see them often.

Joe was born and raised on the farm where David and Cheryl now live. He had two brothers, namely, Francis and John Edmund, and two sisters, Sylvia Cordes and Mary Ann Pavelka Stoural. I, Marcelline Zoucha, was born in Clarks, Nebraska and have three brothers namely, Ben B. and Lambert of Clarks and Adrian of Central City and one sister, Marie, of Clarks. One sister, Gertrude, and one brother, Joe, died in infancy. I attended grade school in District #62, north of Clarks until my seventh grade when I went to Clarks School #11 and graduated from the twelfth grade in 1941. Joe went to school at District #29, west of Chapman, St. Libory Parochial School, and then to St. Mary's Cathedral High School in Grand Island, Nebraska, to graduate in 1935 as salutatorian of his class.

Our children were all active in school and community activities. The boys were sports-minded, and Rita enjoyed singing and art. They were all ten-year 4-H members. I, also, was involved in 4-H as I was a 4-H leader for twenty-two years. W e still enjoy following all the 4-H activities of the youngsters in the county, and await anxiously the time when our grandchildren will be involved in 4-H, a truly worthwhile organization. *Submitted by Marcelline A. Janovec*

FRANK W. JEFFERSON

I was born February 20, 1892, to John H. and Anna E. Jewell Jefferson in a two-room house two miles south of Madison, Nebraska. James came along on February 14, six years later. By that time, Dad had added one room. We lived there until the spring of 1902 when we moved to Merrick County, along with Uncle Joe, Dad's youngest brother who had made his home with us since fall of 1897.

In the fall of 1901, Dad had come to Merrick County and purchased from Harry V. Persons the west half of Sec. 20, T. 14, R 6. This was highly pleasing to Mother, she being the sixth white child born in this county, and having taught in four Merrick County schools after acquiring her teaching certificate. Here, trees would grow without much care and good wells could be had most anywhere. In Madison County, the trees were hard to grow and the well at Dad's had been one hundred feet deep and some distance from the house.

When we got ready to move, James, Mother, and I came to Central City on the train while Dad and Uncle Joe came with an emigrant car and three cars of cattle.

I attended Burke School District #18. Blanche Pease, I believe, was my teacher. I finished the eighth grade under Edna Townsend. I then went to Nebraska Central, taking the Grammar Grade which was a sort of advanced eighth grade. Many of my classmates there were grown men.

I finished the academy in 1909. The following summer, we spent in and around McMinnville, Oregon, taking in the World's Fair in Seattle, Washington, and returning home in the fall in time for James to enter school.

In December of 1917, I enlisted in the Signal Corps. Imagine my surprise when I got to the depot and found Eric Wright, Ray Smith, John S. Johnston, Vern Hens, and Ernie Beaty with the same idea in mind. Eric, John, and Ernie went to the Q.M., Ray and Vern the Signal Corps (the latter the Air Corps) and I to the Balloon Corps. I spent some time in Kelly Field; Camp McArthur; Waco, Texas; Eustus, Va.; and back to Morrison where I was discharged in December.



Frank and Anna Jefferson

In the summer of 1919, I broke up some land I had purchased, selling it that summer and the next spring bought a farm at Scottsbluff. That proved to be my undoing, for in the big crash, the bottom fell out of everything. I stayed at home then, and in July of 1930 I married Anna Nielsen, the daughter of Laura and Kristoffer Nielsen. To this union were born John F., Joan Marie, Lola Jean, and Dale R.

Upon our marriage, Dad built a new home near Central City, we living in the big house. We lived there until John's family became too big, when we traded. We celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary this past July thirteenth at the Fairview Methodist Church. *Submitted by Frank W. Jefferson*

JAMES JEFFERSON FAMILY



James T. and Myrtle Jefferson

James T. Jefferson was born February 14, 1899, at Madison, Nebraska, to John and Anna Jewel Jefferson. Jim with his parents, moved to Merrick County in 1902.

He attended county school District #18 and later Central City High School.

On July 19, 1919, he married Myrtle Naomi Hensley, daughter of L.L. and Margaret Hensley. She was born July 10, 1896, in Merrick County on the Joseph Phelps farm located just one-half mile south of the Jefferson home today. Myrtle attended District #48 county school and then Central City High School and Nebraska Central College, known then as Nebraska Quaker College, graduating in 1915.

Jim and Myrtle were married in Grand Island July 19, 1919, and lived with Jim's parents until February, 1920, moving then, by immigrant train to Angora, Nebraska, for an enjoyable four years. Angora is located between Bridgeport and Alliance, mostly grazing and meadow land, sandy soil, many ranches and cattle country. However, much wheat was raised there, also great potato country. When the potato crop was harvested, they would pile them on the ground, which resembled big stacks of hay, later to be bagged in 100-pound sacks and shipped out by rail.

The town of Angora had about 500 population at that time. Jim and Myrtle made many friends. There was a closeness of people in those days. Myrtle was the barber for many young boys. She also helped neighbors with maternity cases and other illness, especially pneumonia. There was no doctor or barber in the town.

The country was very primitive in those days, with coyotes and rattlesnakes in the yards and around homes a great deal of the time. Many times Myrtle chased coyotes away from the door of the house with the broom. Much wild life roamed the area, a constant threat to human lives, as well as animals.

Myrtle and Jim returned to Central City in 1925, and lived in a new small built house on Sr. Jefferson home land. Then they moved to L.L. Hensley residence where they cared for Verne, Myrtle's brother. Both Jim and Myrtle enjoyed rural life. Jim loved the livestock and farming, milking many cows. Myrtle always raised a large garden, and loved to can and preserve their food from the large orchard and garden they so lovingly attended.

Jim and Myrtle adopted a daughter, Virginia, in 1933. She was educated in Merrick County, and married Clifford Steinke, and they lived in rural Dannebrog. Virginia passed away in 1974, leaving two children, Ronald and Elaine, besides her husband. Jim passed away in August of 1979. Myrtle died in August 1981.

Submitted by M. Maxine Connor

JOHN JEFFERSON FAMILY

On March 1, 1931, John Franklin was born to Frank W. and Anna M. (Nielsen) Jefferson. He received his grade school education from District #18 and graduated from Central City High School in 1949. John entered the army on May 6, 1952, and served two years. He participated in several atomic bomb tests, and later was an instructor in atomic warfare. He was stationed in Thule, Greenland, for one year and was honorably discharged on June 1, 1954.



John Jefferson Family

On June 5, 1955, he married Delores Kohtz, daughter of Alfred and Dora (Peetzke) Kohtz. She was born in Hamilton County and graduated from Central City in 1953.

On October 2, 1956, they had a daughter named Cynthia Ann. Then on June 29, 1959, a son was born named Brian John. On January 16, 1962, another daughter was born named Tracey Irene, and on June 6, 1964, the last daughter was born, named Lila Mae. The family belongs to the Fairview United Methodist Church and are active in church activities.

John is an active member of the Masonic lodge and served as Master of Lone Tree #36 in 1971. John and Delores are Eastern Star members, and at present are Guardian and Associate Guardian of Jobs Daughters Bethel #7. John farms the home place and is very interested in soil and water problems. He served as chairman of the old soil and water board, and has been chairman of the Central Platte Natural Resources District board for eight years, and received the Distinguished Service to Conservation Award in 1975. He served as chairman of the District #18 school board, and was named Central City Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Farmer of 1977.

Cindy is a ten-year member of 4-H, and graduated from high school in 1974. She attended Lincoln School of Commerce and graduated in 1976. She married Larry Geu of Sidney, Nebraska on January 7, 1978. They live at Burns, Wyoming, where Larry teaches vocational agriculture. They have a son, Christian Lee, born July 19, 1979.

Brian graduated from Central City in 1978. He was very active in FFA and Music. He also is a ten-year member of 4-H. He attended the University of Nebraska, and played drums for the Scarlet and Cream Singers while there. At present, he is farming with his father. He is active in the Pork Producers Association, and is a 4-H leader.

Tracey graduated from high school in 1980. She also was very active in FFA and music. She is a past Honored Queen of Jobs Daughters Bethel #7. She was in 4-H ten years, and at present is attending Kearney State College, where she is a member of the marching and concert bands.

Lila is a junior at Central City. She is active in FHA and is their Historian. She serves as Sr. Princess of Bethel #7. She has been in 4-H eight years.

With Merrick County's friendly people, and the love of God, we have Nebraska's good life. *Submitted by John J. Jefferson*

JEFFREYS FAMILY

Edward (Marma) Duke Jeffreys was born in 1866 in New Middleton, Tennessee. He was the son of Selina Patterson and Anson Leonidas Jeffreys. Because of the "Carpetbaggers" and renegades, the family moved from Tennessee in 1869, to Auburn, Illinois, where Edward received his formal education.

Later they moved to Gage County, Nebraska, where Edward was a teacher for seventeen years.

Here he married Ida Mary Eby of Lanham, Nebraska. The Ebys had come to Nebraska from Mendota, Illinois, where Ida was born. They had been pioneers in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, previously.

The Jeffreys were farmers, and he also managed a grain elevator in Nebraska and in Washington, Kansas. They had eight children: six girls and two boys, six born near Beatrice, Luella in Kansas and Alice in Central City.

They moved to Greeley, Colorado, because of the mother's health. She was miserable with asthma and hay fever. But the mother, though her health was better, was unhappy being so far from her loved ones in Nebraska. So they returned and settled in Central City in 1912.

Being farmers at heart, they moved to a farm west of Central City in Prairie Creek. Ada, the eldest, met and married Floyd F. Rice and of their children, Doris Gibson (wife of present Central City mayor) and Donald Rice and family of Palmer are the only descendants of the Jeffreys now living in Merrick County.

In 1917, the mother, Ida, after a short illness, died and was buried in the Prairie Creek Cemetery. The father, Edward, had been elected County Judge. After a family conference, they decided to move back into Central City and continue with their educational and family pursuits.

Alice was just two years old, but she went with her father to the courthouse and during the school hours, he cared for her there. Then she went home with the other children after school dismissal. She learned much from the "Courthouse People" — probably more advanced learning than do the children watching T.V. today.

Edward Jeffreys served as County Judge ten years. He was also a member of the Central City school board, and president of P.T.A. As a mason, he was very responsible in getting a Job's Daughter Bethel organized. Many people sought him for counsel, both in his office and at his home. He taught his children to *think* about their problems and make decisions carefully. He married Clara Templin Farnham in 1919. In 1926 he suffered a stroke and was an invalid for six years, until his death in 1932. He is buried beside the mother of his children in Prairie Creek Cemetery. Clara is buried beside her former husband in the Central City Cemetery.

The living children of Edward and Ida Jeffreys are Ida Slemons, who lives near her daughter, (Shirley Maggard) in California; Bessie Keller, who lives near her daughter (Twila Martin) in Houston, Texas; Mildred Ross in Denver, Colorado; Luella Bochat and Alice Jeffreys, both in Phoenix, Arizona. Ada Rice, Edwin and William Jeffreys were the other three children. *Submitted by Bessie Keller*

ELIZABETH MARSH JENSEN

I doubt that it ever occurred to the six young Marshes that we were poor in this world's goods. We had enough to eat, clothes (often hand- me-downs) to wear, and a great deal of happiness. For me, it was a good beginning for a rich and happy life. Two miles walk to country school, sometimes hanging onto brother Marion's coattail as he plowed a path through deep snow, driving "old Bill" or fractious ponies to Archer H.S. one year; seven more years in Central City H.S. and Nebraska Central Academy and College, supporting myself by four years of teaching in country schools; — twenty-four years filled with happiness and a few deep sorrows, sustained always by family and the old home. Later academic pursuits took me to Haverford College for an M.A. degree, and for a term at Woodbrooke School in England.

Ten years of work with Quaker organizations followed Haverford, interrupted in the late 1920's by a summer in England and Europe, tramping, attending two world youth conferences, a month at the League of Nations sessions in Geneva, then the term at Woodbrooke. Much of the ten years was spent in travelling among American Friends, and the work largely evolved around youth. Headquarters were first in Richmond, Indiana, serving as National Young Friends Secretary. Five years followed, developing youth volunteer services and working in personnel out of the Philadelphia offices of American Friends Service Committee. There were returns to Philadelphia during the next forty years for staff, Board or Committee assignments, with a year and a half of full-time work there, and another year in Mexico among Spanish refugees, accompanied by Daniel Jensen whom I married in 1935 at Pendle Hill near Philadelphia, with father and mother Marsh there, and by daughter Karen, born in 1936. Daniel Jensen — born October 24, 1893 at Nebraska City — buried in Central City Cemetery; Elizabeth M. Jensen born September 14, 1900 at Archer; Karen Jensen — born June 4, 1936.

Books could be written of the experiences after marriage, when we lived for ten years in Colorado in conditions more primitive than those of early childhood: no electricity, no telephone, no central heating, no running water, bad roads, school a near-impassable six miles away. World War II added to physical strains. But a good ranch and fine herd of herefords were slowly achieved. Selling that ranch in 1947, the family moved in 1949 to our present excellent ranch in Wyoming, located in a community of fine people. Two full summers were spent in Europe as a family, where we looked up friends and relatives in several countries. Karen was married in 1955, and Daniel died in 1971. My home continues on the ranch.

Life was made enormously rich through the years by people. Every year brought scores of friends and relatives to our door, and we travelled frequently among them in various parts of the country. I have never ceased to be grateful for the early years of nurture in a home where love dwelt, and which sent me forth with confidence into an exciting world. *Submitted by Elizabeth Marsh Jensen*

GEORGE & ETHEL JENSEN

George Jensen was born to Julius (J.P.) and Mary Hutchinson Jensen January 13, 1900 near Utica, Nebraska. J.P. came from Denmark when he was twenty-four. Mary was born near Waco, Nebraska. They moved to a farm north of Overton when George was six years old. He lived with his parents until 1920 when he married Ethel Lips of Overton May 12, 1920 and moved to their own farm.

Ethel was born August 7, 1901 to George and Emma Philpott Lips at Purceville, Iowa. The same year they moved to Langdon, Missouri where Ethel's father was a section forman for C.B. & Q. Ethel had two sisters and two brothers. Then the family moved to Overton so the five children could have a



Mr. and Mrs. George Jensen

better education.

A daughter, Eugenia was born October 24, 1922 to George and Ethel.

George was the first tractor farmer in Dawson County. In 1936 they were influenced by Mr. Clabaugh of Columbus to give up farming and start a hatchery in Central City .

The hatchery was started in the Donaldson Theatre building with a 16,000 egg capacity incubator. In 1941 they bought the building and added two more incubators which increased their business to 96,000 egg capacity. They built a floor over the theatre seat area. The projection room is still visible in the mid-section of the hatchery. Later we had seven chick stores as far away as Chappell, Nebraska.

Special roosters were secured from breeding farms to be put with the flocks which provided eggs for the hatchery. Ethel culled the hens while George bloodtested. The culled hens were sold to the Omaha Cold Storage located just south of the Burlington Depot. Eggs were delivered to the hatchery twice a week, which made twice a week boxing and sorting chicks for customers and shipment.

Hatching business changed somewhat during the late 60's and early 70's, so shipping in of eggs to be hatched, ended. Now we ship in chicks, plus guineas, ducks, geese and turkeys. In the fall around 5000 ready-to-lay pullets are brought in from Welp Breeding Farm in Bancroft, Iowa. The season is about twelve months per year now compared to the early days. At first they were all thoroughbreds as Leghorns, White Rocks, Barred Rocks, Buff Orphingtons, White Wyandotts, Rhode Island Reds and New Hampshires. Now the popular chickens are cross breds and hybrids.

In 1947 we bought the Traver home on north 17th Avenue and had the yard landscaped and with the help of Cliff Foster we remodeled the house. In 1951 we bought the Ratcliff Apartments. With the help of the Piephart Brothers and Cliff Foster we remodeled the apartments and Hatchery. Dr. Brown's office was in the Theatre building. The Ratcliff building provided offices for Dr. Ross, Dr. McAleer, ASC and Soil Conservation. First we had nine apartments and later two more were added.

We celebrated our sixty-first wedding anniversary May 12, 1981. *Submitted by Mrs. George Jensen*

CHARLES & LUCY JEWELL

Lucy Wilson was born December 17, 1825 and Charles Collins Jewell was born March 7, 1830, both in New York State. They married in Olean, New York November 14, 1850. To this union were born four children: John, who died at the age of twelve, Frank, Hattie and Myra.

The Jewells crossed the vast territory to the West in a covered wagon. A metal tea cannister from that wagon trek is a treasured item in our home today. Several of the Jewell families settled near Prairie Island in the southeast part of Merrick County and Charley's were among them for a time. Later they moved north and west to the Fairview Community, some distance beyond Central City.

According to the Fairview Church History 1872-1944, "about the year 1876, Charles Jewell conceived the idea of a prayer meeting at Burke school house. An enthusiastic and altogether satisfactory meeting was held."

"Sabbath School was organized soon after in the school house and a little later Mr. Jewell was elected Superintendent."

According to the Records in the County Clerk's Office, J. W. Persinger owned land that we know today as "the Barge Land" and also land in the section which adjoins it to the south. In 1877, Mr. Persinger sold the land to their son, Newlon Persinger. Newlon was married to Hattie Jewell.

On June 1, 1881, Myra Jewell married William Johnston. They were married in the little house which stood on the present day site of the Willeman house. Sons Charles and James were born here.

The Persingers and the Jewells planted lots of cedar trees on this farmstead, which was a little distance to the northeast of today's Fairview Church parsonage. Recently, the scrubby old cedars were dozed out to make way for a new sprinkler system.

Frank Jewell married Emma Cox.

With reference again to the Church History, in 1882 Mr. Jewell was a member of a committee of six who formulated plans and raised the money to build a new church. It was located two miles north and two miles east of Archer.

In 1882, the Persinger land to the south was sold to E. Simmons. Myra and Willie continued to farm and live in the little house.

In 1893, the church was moved to the southwest corner of the Persinger's farm, where today's Fairview Church Parsonage now stands. In 1894, Persingers sold their land to a Mr. Wilson. We only speculate that he was related to Lucy (Wilson) Jewell.



Charles C. Jewell

Mr. and Mrs. Jewell moved to Central City. As her health failed her, Lucy moved into Myra's home, where she died August 28, 1890. She is buried in the Central City Cemetery.

Mr. Jewell moved to Wooster, Ohio to be near their son Frank and his family. He married again. He died May 29, 1921 and is buried in Wooster, Ohio. *Respectfully submitted by a Great-Grandson, Carroll Johnston & Nadine*

FRANCIS JOHNSON FAMILY

Francis Johnson, a long time Merrick County farmer, is the son of Ray and Bessie Cohagen Johnson. He was born in Colorado in January 1929. He attended schools in Polk County and graduated from Central City High School. He went to work as a truck driver for his uncle in Stromsburg. In the fall of 1949, he moved to Central City where he picked up milk for Robert's Dairy.

Shirley was born and raised in Polk County, graduating from Shelby High in 1944. She taught school in Polk and Butler County for six years.

In October 1949, Francis and Shirley were married at Shelby and made their first home in Central City.



Francis and Shirley Johnson Family

In April 1950, they moved to the Sanborn Booth farm five miles northeast of Central City where Francis started working with Sanborn. In 1952, they moved one mile west where they began farming for themselves. In 1963, they purchased the Rosa Soahl farm and the Booth farm. At that time, they moved back to the Booth farm as the Booth's retired and moved to Central City.

Francis and Shirley are the parents of three children; Larry, JoLene and Roger. They were all born in Central City.

Larry was born in January 1951. He attended District #27 Grade School and graduated from Central City High School in 1969. He married Merry Klauz of Lexington in August 1972. They live in Merced, California where he is manager of the Sears Automotive Store. They have three children: Angela Renee, age eight; Steven Joseph, age five; Kristin Marie, age six months.

JoLene was born in September 1953. She attended District #27 grade school and graduated from Central City Senior High in 1971 and is a graduate from Grand Island Business School. She married Russ Barth of St. Paul in November 1971 and they made their home in Central City till 1977. At that time they moved to Doniphan, Nebraska where they presently reside. Russ is employed by Lincoln Equipment Company. They have one daughter, Brenda Jo, age 7.

Roger was born in November 1964. He has attended Central City Schools and is presently a sophomore at Central City High. He is farming with his dad. *Submitted by Shirley Johnson*

ROBERT JOHNSON

Robert Johnson was born September 20, 1903 to Ed and Alberteena Johnson, five miles west of Stromsberg, Nebraska. He lived with his parents and started to school five miles northwest of Polk, then moved five miles northeast of Hordville where he finished the eighth grade.

In growing up, Robert had other brothers and sisters. Freeman married Mildred Carlson. After she passed away, he married Leona Zwiebel. They had four children. Hazel married Jack Molic and lived in Osceola. They have three children. Edna married Ronald Sorrel and lived in Osceola. Inez Clark was married twice. Evelyn married Floyd Everett, they had one daughter. Floyd passed away November 4, 1977. Kareen married Don Steelsmith. Mervin had two children. Edwin and Chester were half brothers and Maxine a half sister. She had an adopted daughter.

Robert still lived on a farm with his parents until the age of twenty-two when he married Margaret Boyd in 1922 in Central City. They moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan where he worked in the papermill. Six months later they moved to Central City where he worked at a dairy for six years. He also worked for Morg Newlon and Jud Mericle and later worked on the railroad for thirty-two and one-half years and in North Platte for the Pacific Fruit Express.

Robert and Margaret had four children. Gerald married Pauline Rose. Gerald is not living now. Nadine married Clyde Bowens and they live in Central City. Judy lives in New Castle, Wyoming and has four children. Donald lives at Casper, Wyoming and has two children.

After twenty-nine years of married life together, he and his wife separated. After two years living alone, he married Stella Fitzsimmons but for only five months. In 1958, he married Nayda Monson. She was born at Winterset, Iowa on May 31, 1910. They have three children, Dick, Patsy and Donna.

Robert retired in 1968. *Submitted by Robert Johnson*

LINORD JOHNSON FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson and their two children, Lenora and Linord, moved into Nebraska from Rock Island, Illinois. They resided first in Polk county, then in Merrick County north of Clarks, Nebraska, on a farm taken as a timber claim by George Dudney's father in 1870. Some of the large cottonwood trees are still living and are over 100 feet high.

Then later, Dr. R.R. Douglas' parents lived on this farm for several years. The Johnsons purchased this farm in 1916 and there have been Johnsons living here ever since. Linord died in 1970.

Lenora Johnson worked away from home and later married.

Linord moved to Lincoln in 1920 and attended Automotive School and built a garage in Bethany. He operated it for two years.

While visiting his cousin near Burwell in 1922, he met Doris Britton. She had graduated from Trumbull High School and was teaching northwest of Burwell. They were married two years later and came to live on this farm in the fall of 1924.

Doris' parents John and Agnes Hasler Britton came from England in the late 1800's. They farmed in Illinois, South Dakota, and Arkansas before moving to Nebraska in 1916. There were five daughters and four sons, losing one nineteen-year-old son in the 1918 flu epidemic.

The Linord Johnsons had three children: Florence, (Mrs. Glenn Kring of Eddyville, Nebraska), Richard, on the J.A. Phelps farm north of Clarks, and LaRhue, (Mrs. Bill Beck) on the Verne McLean farm northwest of Clarks.

At this time they have ten grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. Florence and her husband lost a two- month-old boy in 1951, and Richard and Lorene's son Glen, fifteen years old, was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1976.

They built a new house in 1954 and did all the work themselves. They worked hard all those years, and weathered the thirties. Since Linord's death, Doris has traveled and enjoyed seeing other parts of the world.

We are very grateful we live in such a fine community and the good old U.S.A. *Submitted by Mrs. Doris (Linord) Johnson*

CLAUS JOHNSON FAMILY

Claus Oscar Reinhold Johnson, son of John A. Frejd and Lisa Maria Johnson, was born in Myresja, Sweden 11 January 1885. After arriving on the S. S. Cimrick at the port of Boston, Massachusetts, Claus came directly to Nebraska. His brothers Anton and Emil also came to this area around the same time.

After spending some time working on farms in Hamilton and Merrick Counties he went to the gold fields of Alaska. He left Merrick County with some other young men. They walked over 400 miles of the long journey. Passage home was very costly so some of the men decided to bring a rowboat down the coast of Canada, staying near the shore. There were extremely rough waters and at one time they didn't see land for two days. One of the men had some experience in sailing and with his direction they made it back to Washington State. Claus brought back several small gold nuggets which he had made into a watchchain.



Claus and Alma Johnson

Alma Natali Gustafson was born 26 February 1882 at Elmhold, Sweden. Her parents were Gustaf Anderson and Louisa Hanson. She came to the United States to work as a "hired girl," as many immigrant women did in that era. She was employed in the Roller Tooley home in Central City.

On 16 April 1913 Claus Johnson and Alma Gustafson were married in Central City. They lived on the Pete Nelson farm west of Central City. Here their only son, Carl Adolf was born 30 September 1916.

Claus was naturalized as an American citizen on 13 February 1925 and Alma on 12 January 1942.

Claus bought 227 acres in Hamilton County. The land was located a mile south of the Platte River and three miles west of Hordville.

Carl spoke very little English when he started to school. He attended District #36 in Hamilton County and later the Luther Academy at Wahoo.

Carl Johnson married Mary Madolyn Heuring at her parents' farm home on 12 January 1941. Madolyn was born 19 April 1921 in Grand Island, the daughter of Elmer David and Florence Hazel Nason Heuring. After living in Wyoming, Ravenna and Grand Island they returned to the Heuring family farm in Hamilton County, when Madolyn was twelve years old. She graduated from Central City High School in 1939.

Carl and Madolyn are the parents of three sons:

Carl Richard, a veterinarian, lives in Central City. He is married to Nancy Fullington. They have three sons Richard, Scott, and Russell, and a daughter, Marla.

Ronald LeRoy farms near Hordville. He is married to Cheryl Brown. They have two sons, Jeffry and Jason.

Larry Dale is a stockbroker in Lincoln. He is married to Janet Walter and they have three sons, Jared, Darren and Andrew.

Claus and Alma moved to Hordville in December 1941. Carl and Madolyn made their home on the farm. A new house was built in 1949.

Claus and Alma lived the rest of their lives in Hordville with Claus driving out to the farm almost daily and Alma keeping house, cooking the Swedish dishes that each generation has learned to prepare, especially at holiday time. She crocheted and the family has many lovely items that she made.

Claus died at Hordville 15 February 1969. Alma died at Aurora 15 August 1969. Their funerals were held at the Friedham Lutheran Church of which they were members. The bell of the church tolled more than eighty times for each — symbolizing the years of their long and useful lives. *Submitted by Carl Richard and Nancy Johnson*



Linord and Doris Johnson Family

C.R. JOHNSON FAMILY

Carl Richard (Dick) Johnson is the son of Carl and Madolyn Johnson. He was born in the Community Hospital at 2221 15 Avenue in Central City in 1941. He grew up in Hamilton County one mile south of the Platte River and graduated from Hordville High School in 1958.

I was born, Nancy Belle Fullington, at the farm home of my parents, Earl and Marian Fullington, northeast of Central City in 1941. I have lived most of my life in Merrick County. I graduated from Central City High School in 1958.

In November 1958 Carl Richard Johnson and I were married.

The first six years of our marriage were spent "building the foundation" for our lives together. Dick was studying at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. During these years our children were born: Richard Craig (1959) in Merrick County's Litzenberg Memorial Hospital a few months after its opening; Marla Kay (1960), Scott Carl (1962), and Russell Alan (1963) in Manhattan.

Our "home" in Kansas was a three room apartment. Dick worked at a variety of odd jobs. Finally the long awaited day, Carl Richard Johnson was awarded his D.V.M. degree May 31, 1964.

In February 1965 we were back in Central City and Dick began his association with the Central



C. R. Johnson Family — 1978
Scott, Richard, Nancy, Dick, Marla and Russell

City Veterinary Clinic. In this practice, most large animals are still treated on the farms resulting in many miles traveled by the veterinarian. This is changing and more animals are being treated at the clinic. The "days on call," night calls, and uncertain working hours quickly became a way of life for all of us.

Dick is a member of several state and national veterinary associations. He has served for several years on the Board of Directors of Professional Agriculture Services.

I have been involved in many community activities through the years. Presently I am on the Board of the Hard's Memorial Library, Central City School Board Member, and an original director of the Lone Tree Literary Society.

Many summers vacations were spent camping; as near as Hord Lake; as far as Seattle, Washington. We had a fold-out tent camper and learned the true meaning of togetherness! Other activities that we enjoyed, together or individually, include school activities, instrumental and vocal music, athletic events, collecting and restoring turn-of-the-century antiques, traveling, reading, gardening, needlework, and geneology.

In this day of physical fitness awareness the boys have each been fortunate enough to excel in some sports. Rick and Russ each qualified for the state wrestling tournament and received football recognition. Scott qualified in track and has received recognition for his basketball skills. They have participated for many years in American Legion Baseball.

We are members of the United Methodist Church in Central City. Each child was baptized and confirmed in Central City.

The house at 1111 Seventeenth Avenue has been "home" to the Johnson's since 1967. The family room and barn were added in 1974. The yard always seemed to be filled with children of various ages participating in whatever sport or activity the season dictated. Barbie Dolls and koolaid stands dominated the front porch. Warm Slough was always a summer attraction. It was impossible to know if the number to be present for a meal would enlarge or decrease — I have often felt that the microwave oven must have been invented by a veterinarian's wife with four teenagers.

After what has seemed to be a few short years, the bicycles and skateboards in the driveway were replaced by cars; the birthday parties were exchanged for graduation celebrations, as each child in turn graduated from Central City High School; the dolls were put aside for wedding gowns and marriage vows as Richard married Lea Ann Fohlbrecht and Marla became the bride of Ronald Ray Grigsby.

Scott is a student at Kearney State College and Russ, a high school senior.

Our lives are all changing, new doors are opening and exciting challenges are waiting! *Written by Nancy B. Johnson*

RICHARD & LEA ANN JOHNSON

Richard C. Johnson was born on July 29, 1959 in Central City, Nebraska. He is the oldest son of Dr. and Mrs. C.R. Johnson. Rick has one sister, Marla, and two brothers, Scott and Russell.

Lea Ann Folbrecht Johnson is the daughter of Peter William Folbrecht of Nevada, Iowa and Shirley Thompson Folbrecht of Central City, Nebraska. I was born in Hampton, Iowa on June 11, 1960. I have two sisters Joette Gokey and Jill and two brothers Douglas and Michael. My family lived on a farm in Franklin County, until 1964. We then moved to Nevada, Iowa. It was in the year 1969 that my family moved from Nevada, Iowa to Central City, Nebraska. Our new home was at 303 D Street.

Rick and I both attended the Central City Public Schools. Rick graduated from Central City High in 1977. He was very active in wrestling, football and band. Rick spent his summers working at Palmer Implement and Irrigation.

After graduation Rick went to college at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. He was enrolled in a pre-veterinary course. He is affliated with the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity on the U.N.L. campus.



Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Johnson

I graduated from Central City High School in 1978. I was very active in volleyball, basketball and track. It was during high school that Rick and I acquired the nicknames CJ and EB. To many people this was very confusing, but the names have stuck and probably always will.

The summer of 1978 was a busy summer for Rick and I, as we prepared for our wedding day. We were married by the Rev. Denny Silk on August 12, 1978. We were married in the back yard of the Johnson home at 1111 17th Avenue. It was a beautiful day for a garden wedding!

We then moved to Lincoln, Nebraska were we both attended the University of Nebraska. It was at this time Rick and I began work at Cedars Home for Children, 6601 Pioneers Boulevard, Lincoln, Nebraska. Our duties included supervision of up to forty-five children from the ages of four to thirteen.

In August of 1979 Rick began employment at Nebraska Center for Children and Youth. He worked the 2:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. shift in a cottage which housed ten teenage boys. I resumed my duties at Cedars Home for Children.

In April of 1980 Rick and I probably took on one of the most demanding jobs we will ever encounter. We became group-home parents for seven teenage boys. The group home is associated with Nebraska Center for Children and Youth and is funded by the State Department of Public Welfare. The home is located at 2120 B Street in Lincoln, Nebraska. Rick and I are responsible for caring, loving, giving guidance and teaching moral and social values to the boys.

Because of our past work experience Rick and I have both changed our majors. Rick is majoring in Psychology and my major is Human Development-Elementary Education. It is safe to say that working with these youth in our society has had a definite impact on our lives. We just hope that we have influenced their's as much. *Submitted by Lea Ann Johnson*

ARCHIE WILLIAM JOHNSTON



Archie Johnston Family — 1962

Archie William Johnston was born on a farm near Central City, Nebraska to George Archie Johnston and Lula Mable Solt Johnston. He grew to manhood in Merrick County. Then when his parents moved to Primrose, Nebraska, in 1931, he helped them out occasionally, where he met and married Viola Grace Hemmingsen daughter of Lars Alfred Hemmingsen and Nette Belle Farlee Hemmingsen, in his folks home on March 18, 1936, with the Rev. Fred Varcoe officiating. Gladys and Vern Hemmingsen were attendants. Viola lived on the home farm all her life until this time. They started married life on the same farm in the Fairview community where his mother and father started their married life.

The year of 1936 was a year of the depression and dust bowl, years where dust storms were common and crops were short. We had three cows, two sows, twenty-five hens and two hundred baby chicks. We did not raise much in the way of crops for our first five years. Our married life was started with very few of the necessities of life, but we had a determination to farm and to some day own our own farm. Life didn't seem all that bad — you see we both came

from a large family. To us home, family, friends and church were and still are the important and necessary things of life.

Archie's grandparents, the William Solts were charter members of the Friends Church and his folks were members too. Archie was a birthright member, Viola came in by letter from the Presbyterian Church in Primrose. Donald and Larry became birthright members .

On March 22, 1941, our son, Donald, was born.

In October of 1947 we bought the farm three miles west of Chapman, Nebraska, known to us as the Thompson Place and moved there February 14, 1948.

We became active in neighborhood activities. Archie was on the school board of District #29 was on Vieregg Township board and also on the F.H.A. board. He was also leader of a 4-H Club in which we became active.

On August 13, 1953 another son Larry Allen Johnston joined our family.

Donald left to go to William Penn College the fall of 1961. He married Carole Jean Kleppe on August 18, 1962 at Bennett, Iowa. Carole graduated from William Penn in 1963 and Donald graduated in 1960. That fall he taught Industrial Arts in Melcher-Dallas, Iowa. On September 15, 1965 he passed away at Knoxville, Iowa, and was buried at West Lawn in Grand Island.

Larry Johnston married Deborah Ellen Dukes, daughter of Wilson Samuel Dukes and Laura Gladys Rhoades Dukes, who operated Dukes Rest Manor for twelve years. Larry and Deborah were married in Friends Church in Central City , March 11, 1972, and started farming on a farm west of Chapman. On December 26, 1974 they moved to the homeplace and we moved to a place on the corner of the farm that we moved a house onto.

On May 3, 1976 James Allen joined their family and John David on August 23, 1979. They have a dairy barn and are developing a dairy herd. We all think dairy and farming is a good life. *Submitted by Viola Johnston*

CARROLL JOHNSTON FAMILY

Carroll Fredrick Johnston was born December 20, 1917, to Charles and Bertha (Brandner) Johnston, at home eleven and one-half miles northwest of Central City. Charley called his father to say, "Well, I got my little cornhusker." His father died when Carroll was six years old.

He had three brothers: Orville, who married Florene Meyer, Rodney, and Leslie, who married Phyllis Blodgett.

Carroll received his education at Gardner School District #23, Central City High School, and a Farm-Op Short Course at UN of L. He was to be "the farmer."

Ellen Nadine Blodgett, eldest daughter of Clarence and Ruth (Brown) Blodgett, was born at her grandparents' home in Summerfield, Kansas. She has three sisters and one brother: Phyllis Johnston, Theba Lubken, Doyle Blodgett, and Donna Holmes. She was graduated from Pawnee City High School.



Carroll Johnston Family

Carroll and Nadine were married April 24, 1949, at the Methodist Church in Pawnee City, Nebraska.

World War II was over and machinery became available. Hay loaders replaced a team and pitchfork; cornpickers replaced husking pegs; grain augers eased out the scoop shovel. Irrigation ditches lengthened, and corn yields increased. Women cooked big meals for corn-shellers and hay crews. Electricity improved farm life. It warmed homes, carried the water, and ran labor-saving appliances. Neighbors visited back and forth. Fairview's new church was dedicated in December, 1951.

Fredrick Doyle, born November 9, 1955, came home with his parents January 30, 1956.

In 1958, the farmhouse, built by Carroll's uncles in 1908, was enlarged.

Alicia Ellen was born December 23, 1959. She came home with her family March 22, 1960.

Freddie and Alicia attended school at District #23 until consolidation with District #4 in Central City took place in 1968. They both became fifth-generation members of Fairview Church. They participated in 4-H, music, and sports.

In 1969-70, Kalle Lahdesmaki from Finland was a YFU Exchange Student at CCHS, living with the Johnstons.

Fred became an Eagle Scout in 1970. He finished high school in 1974, attended Ag College at UN of L two years, and joined Alpha Gamma Sigma. Fred lives in Hastings, attends CTCC, and is assistant manager of Pizza Hut.

Following high school graduation in 1978, Alicia presented senior recitals in voice and piano. She has studied at UN of L, and is presently employed in the Irving Junior High Music Department in Lincoln.

Nadine worked for a time in the Central City Chamber of Commerce in '78-79.

Carroll has served: President of County Farm Bureau, County Extension Board, School Board, Church Lay Leader, and Mead Township Treasurer since 1965. Community involvement has enriched family life.

The Johnstons enjoy entertaining guests, the arts, and traveling (sometimes camping). Nebraska offers so much to enjoy. And be it Philadelphia, San Antonio, Yellow Stone, the Black Hills, Amanas Rockies, Ozarks, or Lone Tree Monument, the USA is fun to see.

Future retirement? To move away? For one who's spent his lifetime at Hillcrest Stock Farm — it's so good to come home to!

And we bequeath to our children this inherent love for the land. *Submitted by Carroll and Nadine Johnston*

CHARLES & BERTHA JOHNSTON

Charles Alexander, eldest son of William and Myra (Jewell) Johnston was born at their home northwest of Central City, on August 30, 1882.

Mr. Johnston bought the farm now owned by the Elwin Ferrises: they moved here about 1884. Charles lived here with his parents for nearly thirty years. He had six brothers and two sisters. He attended Gardner School and Fairview Methodist Church. He helped his father with the farming and cattle-feeding operation. Lisle Ferris recalled the time he and Charley took the horse and sleigh in chilling weather to attend a program at the Opera House in Central City.

Bertha Brandner was born January 31, 1889, to Carl and Sarah (Nitzel) Brandner near Burns, Kansas. She was one of six children. She attended business college in Grand Island, then laid aside career plans at the death of an aunt to manage the home for the uncle's family. She attended Fairview Church, where she met her future husband.

Charles and Bertha were married at her parents' home February 24, 1913. A blizzard detained the bridegroom and delayed the ceremony.

Their life together began on a farm William Johnston purchased in 1899. (East: 35-15-7). Charley purchased the farm September 10, 1915. January 13, 1919, his 'hilltop' was registered "Hillcrest Stock Farm."



Bertha and Charley Johnston

Bertha longed for trees. Her father sent seeds in his letters — a large maple graces the yard today. In time, several kinds of trees filled the yard. Charley planted rows of cedars and a large orchard of fruit trees. Flowers bloomed and gardens flourished.

They acquired milk cows, laying hens, hogs, and good horses to farm with. Charley helped his father with the cattle-feeding also.

Five sons were born into this home: Orville Charles, Rodney William, Carroll Fredrick, Leslie Ervin and Milton Dale (who did not survive). Bertha believed an education for her sons to be like sunshine is to flowers — an essential ingredient for survival and growth. So there were good books to read, verses to learn, songs to sing, and games to play. As a member of the school board, Charley helped to promote the new school house at Gardner. The school offered ten years of education. The four boys completed their educational training in Central City. Orville and Rodney were tapped to the National Honor Society.

Charley's brother, Cecil and Bertha's brother, Fred, were both in France during World War I. Both returned.

On October 15, 1923, an untimely death came for Charley. Life became complicated and difficult for Bertha and her sons. Her mother, Sarah Brandner, now living at 1715 12th Street in Central City, became an important part of their lives. Bertha persevered through troubles and hard times, through serious illnesses and the depression. Friends sustained her. Her determination, coupled with hard work and an unwavering faith, marked her "A Woman of Stature."

Three sons earned college degrees. The fourth helped her clear the farm of debt in 1945.

Bertha moved into her mother's former home in 1951. She continued participation in church and community affairs. She enjoyed traveling, her flowers and gardens, and the grandchildren.

Death came April 21, 1976. She is buried beside her husband in the Burke Cemetery. *Respectfully submitted by their son Carroll & Nadine*

DAVID & NANCY JOHNSTON

David H. Johnston was born near Indiana, Pennsylvannia where he spent his early youth. When the Civil War broke out, he was on a river boat near New Orleans. As a Northener, he made his way back to Missouri where he enlisted in a northern Missouri regiment. He spent his service in the Mississippi River area and was at the seige of Vicksburg where he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor as a member of the storming.party.

On February 29, 1872 he married Nancy Jane McWilliams. They resided in Iowa until October 1876, when they moved to a farm north of Central City where they lived until their deaths. They were the parents of eight children; Elizabeth (Mrs. George Campbell), Margaret (Mrs. Fred Burkey), Robert F., William H., David W., John S., Minnie (Mrs. Evan Crites), and Nettie (Mrs. William Cole). *Submitted by W.D. Johnston*

GEORGE ARCHIE JOHNSTON

George Archie Johnston was born on a farm in the Fairview Community to William and Myra Jewell Johnston, along with five brothers and two sisters.

One sister died at an early age. He married Lula Mable Solt, daughter of Wm Ellis and Nellie Agnes Solt. Lula was born in Hamilton County, Nebraska and moved to Merrick County in 1896. They were married in her parents home on July 1, 1908. William Solt and Addie Solt were witnesses. They started married life on a farm in the Fairview Community and lived in Merrick County until March of 1931 when they moved to a farm near Primrose, Nebraska. In February of 1937, in the midst of the depression and dust storms, they started with their worldly goods in a pickup and family car for the state of Washington. After trials of upsetting the pickup and reloading, they arrived after five days to make their home there.



George and Mabel Solt Johnston

To this union eight children were born:

Esther Isabelle born June 30, 1909 and passed away the same day. Victor Erwin Johnston, born August 20, 1910 at Central City, Nebraska. Archie William Johnston, born August 28, 1912 at Central City, Nebraska. Beulah Lavern Johnston, born September 7, 1914 at Central City, Nebraska. George Ellis Johnston, born December 8, 1918 at Central City , Nebraska. Vernon Russel, born 1923 at Central City, Nebraska and passed away at the farm home near Central City 1926. Harold Wayne Johnston, born December 21, 1924 at Central City, Nebraska. Willard Lee Johnston, born March 15, 1929 at Central City, Nebraska. There were 19 grandchildren.

Archie Johnston and his wife still live on a farm near Chapman. His son Larry and wife and two sons also live on a farm near Chapman. *Submitted by Archie Johnston*

LARRY JOHNSTON

Larry Johnston was born August 13, 1953, to Archie and Viola Johnston in Grand Island, Nebraska. He grew up on their farm two and one-half miles west of Chapman, Nebraska.

He attended District 29 School through seventh grade, then to Chapman Public School. He went to high school at Grand Island Northwest. He was extremely involved in 4- H in the Merrick County Club. He has been a 4-H King and won many awards and trophies at Merrick County and Nebraska State Fairs.

He graduated from Northwest High School in 1971. He then started farming with his father and working part-time as an assistant for Dr. D. L. Huffman, a veterinarian in Grand Island.

He met Deborah Dukes in 1970, who is the daughter of Wilson and Gladys Dukes of Central City . She was born in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1955. Her family moved to Central City in 1959. Her parents ran Dukes Rest Manor. She attended Central City High School until her junior year, and finished one year later with a GED. She is a licensed physical therapy aide.

They became engaged and married on March 11, 1972, at the Friends Meeting House in Central City.

Larry and Deb moved to one of the farms his father rented and worked and lived there for the next four years.

On May 3, 1976, James Allen was born to join their family. They moved to the home place as his parents had made a new home on their land. In December of 1978, they began milking cows, in the old barn with hanging buckets. They had a second son, John David, born on August 29, 1979.

In December of 1980, with his parents help, they put up a new dairy barn. He purchased new milk cows and now milks 54 head while farming two farms, since his father's retirement. James and John Johnston are the fifth generation of Johnstons to live in Merrick County. *Submitted by Viola Johnston*

LESLIE JOHNSTON FAMILY

Leslie Ervin, youngest son of Charles and Bertha Johnston, and his twin brother, Milton Dale, were born September 20, 1922, at the family farm in Central City, Nebraska. Milton Dale, who lived only a few hours, is buried in Burke Cemetery at Central City.

Leslie attended Gardner School and later Central City High School from which he graduated in 1940. He continued his education with one year at Nebraska Central College in Central City, before transferring to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where, in 1945, he received his B.S. Degree in Business Administration.

Upon completion of his education, Les accepted employment with the Office of the Auditor of Public Accounts in Lincoln, and in this position he traveled throughout the state. While auditing the County Court at Pawnee City, Nebraska, he met Phyllis Arlene Blodgett and they were married on June 6, 1948.

Leslie and Phyllis have two children. Their daughter, Sondra Kaye, was born August 11, 1949, at Fremont, Nebraska. She married Donald Wayne Kermmoade, and their son Troy Alan was born December 8, 1968. Sondra and Troy reside in Lincoln, Nebraska, where she is employed as a bailiff with the District Court.

Their son, Norman Alan, was born June 11, 1952, at Auburn, Nebraska. He married Elizabeth Kaye Todd of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, whom he met while serving with the United States Air Force. Their son, Kevin Alan, was born April 17, 1979, at Norman, Oklahoma. They reside in Norman, where Norm is a mail carrier with the U.S. Postal Service.

Leslie and Phyllis currently reside in Lincoln, Nebraska, where Leslie has spent the past 22 years working as a Research and Statistics Program Supervisor with the Nebraska Department of Labor. Phyllis has been employed as an administrative assistant to a Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court since 1965.

Although Leslie's career has taken him away from Merrick County, he and Phyllis still enjoy the benefits of rural living on their acreage outside of Lincoln, Nebraska. *Submitted by Carroll Johnston*



Leslie Johnston Family

NATHAN & SUSAN JOHNSTON

Susan B. Farrington was born in Vermont on May 17, 1834. Susan's father, Joseph, was a native of Vermont who went to California in the Gold Rush of 1848. She was the youngest of their five children. Her Brother, Luther, who was the eldest child, was an intimate friend of Buffalo Bill Cody. Next came twin sisters: Mary, who married and lived in Boston, Massachusetts; and Martha, who weighed 2½ pounds at birth, 202 pounds at her death, and wore a size two shoe. She married, was widowed, and died in Central City. Helen, who came between the twins and Susan, married and lived in Vermont.

About 1850, a sister and four brothers who emigrated from Glasgow, Scotland landed in Boston. They left behind their parents and nine other children. It appears that Alexander and Nathan Johnston stayed together. Alexander married Susan in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. They lived in Ohio for two years, where he received his citizenship in 1852. They moved to Quincy, Illinois. He was a locomotive cab builder employed by C.B.&Q. Railroad. A son, James, was born in 1856. They moved to Monticello, Indiana, where a daughter, Mary, was born in 1859 and a son, William in 1862. They moved again to Galesburg, Illinois, where Alexander, still with the railroad, died in 1866 at about forty-five years of age.



Nathan and Susan Johnston

Nathan, who had never married and was a machinist for C.B.&., willingly assumed the role as head of the household for his brother's wife and children and became their sole support. He was loved and respected by the children as if he were their father.

George Ferris married Mary in 1874; when they came to Merrick County, settling on a farm northwest of Central Ctiy in the Fairview Community. Nathan and Susan came later and lived nearby. According to the Fairview Church History, the first Ladies Aid Society was organized at Grandma Johnston's home in the summer of 1885.

William came to Merrick County and married Myra Jewell in 1881.

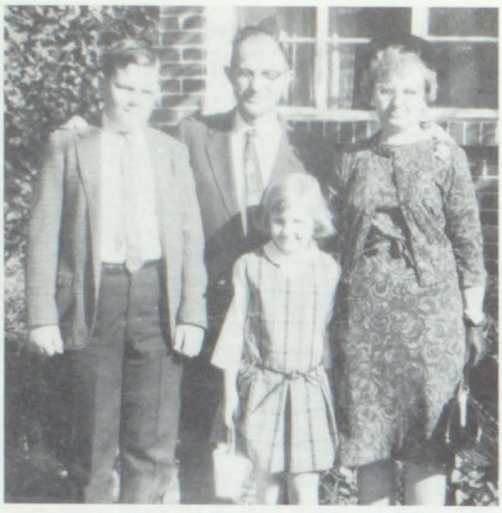
Mary Wilder, niece of George Ferris, made her home with Grandma Johnston and Uncle Nathan for a number of years.

Eventually, Susan and Nathan moved to Central City and resided at 1329 — 17th Avenue. He died January 30, 1890. It was said he never knew his birth date nor his age; his marker says only "70 years ." Susan died at home February 12, 1909. Both are buried in the Burke Cemetery northwest of Central City.

Susan has more than twenty direct descendants living in Merrick County today. *Respectfully submitted by a Great-Grandson Carroll Johnston and Nadine*

ORVILLE JOHNSTON FAMILY

Orville Charles Johnston, eldest son of Charles and Bertha Johnston, was born December 31, 1914, at their home northwest of Central City. For twenty years he lived on the farm with his mother and brothers attending Gardner School and graduating from Central City High School in 1933. He was tapped to the National Honor Society his senior year. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering from Iowa State in 1938, and



Orville Johnston Family — 1967

a Masters Degree from the University in Columbia, Missouri, in 1940.

His working career started with an oil company in East Texas; from there, to research engineer in Dallas.

Here he met and married Florene Meyer in 1946. They built a home and adopted a son, Charles, in 1957 and a daughter, Connie, in 1966. They belonged to Lovers Lane Methodist Church.

His work required travel in Texas, other states, and for awhile in Venezuela. Near the end of twenty-five years with the company, he volunteered to go to Japan as a metalurgist in the Japanese Pipemill, during the fabrication of pipe for the Alaskan Pipeline. His family joined him; their experience was very good. Lasting friendships were developed there, and several have visited them since their return home. They have also hosted two students who came for training: one a six-weeks course in English; the other a full-year exchange student. These experiences were springboards for their participation in the International Hospitality Organization, which continues on.

Following retirement from the oil business, Orville worked for a short time as a realtor, and then as an engineer with a petroleum engineering consultant in Plano, a suburb of Dallas. After a year, he accepted employment with a Texas environmental oriented agency. Here he became involved with studies of water quality, and later in the proper disposal of toxic wastes. Orville's home office with the State was in Austin, Texas, so the family now reside in the capitol city. His employment calls for some travel around the state and an occasional trip out of state. This field of work as been challenging and the associations rewarding.

Connie is in nurses training, and Charles chose the field of mechanics.

Orville and Florene treasure and maintain friendships "from home" — folks they visit while they are in Fairview and Merrick County. Their welcome mat is always out to friends from every direction, including those from here. Their hospitality and Flo's cooking make folks glad they came!

They attend the United Methodist Church, which has been deeply involved with refugee families locating in the Austin area.

At this time, the prospect of retirement looms in the near future. He is now considering several possibilities to find some new activity that will be interesting and fulfilling. Most certainly, their huge vegetable gardens, and their lovely yard and flowers will contribute to this need. *Submitted by Carroll and Nadine Johnston*

ROBERT & ADA JOHNSTON

Robert F. Johnston was the oldest son of David H. Johnston and Nancy McWilliams Johnston, pioneer residents who came to Merrick County from Iowa in 1876. They settled on a timber claim nine and one-half miles north of Central City, where Bob was born January 19, 1877. He was one of a family of eight children, of whom John S. Johnston of Central City is the only survivor. He attended school in the Mead district or otherwise District #19.

Ada M. Lawson Johnston was born in Iowa January 14, 1889, the daughter of William and Viola Clough Lawson. They moved to the Clarks area in the early 1890's. She attended the District #33 and also the Mead schools.

Robert Johnston and Ada Lawson were married March 6, 1907 at Central City and farmed north of town until 1945, when they moved into Central City. They had lived on the same farm in the Mead district for a period of thirty-six years before retiring. They were the parents of six children: Helen, who died at birth; Robert H., Fawnskin, California; W. David, Tonasket, Washington; Gerald M., Vista, California; Mildred Ortegren, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Dean H., deceased.

While living on the farm Bob was active in the Farmer's Union and also in school affairs, serving several terms of office in both. He was also a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge. He enjoyed sports and attended whenever possible. Ada was an active member of the Pythian Sisters and a charter member of the Friendship Club, which is still in existence in the Fairview area. Their home was always open to friends and relatives and many current residents of the area may remember some of the times they were guests there.

Bob died in April 1959 and Ada in July 1968. John S. Johnston died September 1981.

RODNEY W. JOHNSTON

Rodney William Johnston, second son of Charles A. and Bertha E. Johnston, was born October 17, 1916, in the family farmhome 11½ miles northwest of Central City.

He received his elementary schooling and the first two years of high school at Gardner, District 23, nearby. The final two years were obtained at Central City High School, where he was tapped to the National Honor Society and was graduated in 1934.

The following two years were spent working on the family farm. In the autumn of 1936, he enrolled at Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia, Kansas, where he lived with a cousin's family, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Chapin. The following year, he transferred to the University of Nebraska where he was graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering in June, 1941. He continued studying at Kansas State College at Manhattan, where he received his Masters Degree in Chemical Engineering.

Subsequently, he was employed by the Texaco Company for which he worked for ten years, mostly in their Port Arthur, Texas, refinery laboratory. He was then moved to their New York office.

In 1952, he obtained employment with Houdry Products Corporation, which became a part of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. One year was spent in their Linwood, Pennsylvania, Laboratory, after which work continued in their Philadelphia technical service group. This involved him in various travel assignments in the United States, Peurto Rico, Europe, and Japan.

In 1960, he became involved in the computer programming where he has spent the remainder of his working career in Air Products' Philadelphia office and Linwood Laboratory, working on engineering computer applications.

His plans call for retirement late in 1981 or early 1982.



Rodney W. Johnston

Rod has managed his vacations to include faithful visits with his friends and family. He has visited in every state in the United States except North Dakota and Alaska. While employed in Puerto Rico, he visited the Islands in the surrounding territory. He has been in Mexico and Canada. Rodney was always generous about including his mother in vacation trips whenever possible. An occasional traveling companion with them was Mrs. Lee (Eva) Ferris .

He is an avid sports fan and has participated on a volley ball team for years. He deeply enjoys classical music and opera, and attends on a regular basis. He is knowledgeable of fine art and often visits the offerings presented by the museums and art centers in the East. He skis and is a photography specialist. He is a connoiseur of fine foods, and knows where to find it.

Rod has established friendships, which he cultivates diligently and with vigor. Needless to say, he is a favorite with his nieces and nephews.

He is a seasoned travel guide and a congenial host whenever guests visit in his home. He is also an equally welcome guest wherever he goes. *Submitted by Carroll and Nadine Johnston*

WILLIAM DAVID JOHNSTON

William David Johnston, second son of Robert F. and Ada M. Johnston, was born at Central City November 9, 1913. I attended Mead School District and Central City High School, graduating in 1929. Then I attended Nebraska Central College, leaving in 1933. I worked on farms in the area until 1936, going to Denver, Colorado that fall and living there until 1942, when we left for California. While living in Denver I met and married Lorraine Howe on April 15, 1939. Spent the years of World War Two in California working at Douglas Aircraft and Timm Aircraft.

From 1946 until the fall of 1951, we lived in North Central Washington. At that time we returned to California, where we resided in the Culver City area until retirement in 1978. The last fifteen years there were spent working at the studios, and also in the real estate business. After retirement, we returned to Washington, and live on a small acreage north of the town of Tonasket.

We are the parents of four children: David and Kent of Libby, Montana; Mrs. Susanne Unger, Felton, California; Mrs Nancy D'Atillio, San Jose, California. There are also two grandsons and a granddaughter. *By W. David Johnston*

WILLIAM & MYRA JOHNSTON

William Johnston was born September 2, 1862, in Monticello, Indiana, to Alexander and Susan (Farrington) Johnston. He grew up with his older brother, James, and sister, Mary.

Myra Jewell was born August 7, 1859, in New York State to Charles Collins and Lucy (Wilson) Jewell. She was the youngest of four children: John, Frank, Hattie and herself.

Myra was old enough to appreciate the family's trip west in a covered wagon. She liked Merrick County and was a school teacher who inspired her pupils to be interested in their heritage.

William came to Merrick County and married Myra on June 1, 1881, in the little house they would live in as they began to put down their own roots into soil. Two sons, Charles Alexander and James Nathan, were born here. Today, this house is located to the east of Don and Dianna Erickson's farm house yard. In 1882, they began to purchase land. They moved into the house which is now incorporated into Elwin and Lucile Ferris' farmhome. This was 9½ miles northwest of Central City.

They attended Fairview Methodist Church. Their children attended Gardner School.

Their family grew:

Charles married Bertha Brandner, James married Vernie Weber, George married Mabel Solt, Robert married Amanda Nelson, Cecil married Myrtle Ruth Hoatson; later Katie Kannell, Frank married Verda McDonald, William married Margaret Rankin.

Cora became a Registered Nurse, and Hattie died at the age of six years.



William and Myra Johnston

Myra was a gentle, well-organized, hardworking woman. She was devoted and loyal to her husband and family. William was gruff and exacting, respected by his neighbors and awesome to his grandchildren. They took pride in their home. He dreamed of having a farm for each of their sons, and expanded the cattle feeding business. He was proud of his quality teams of horses. They sold their cattle in Chicago, making the trip by train, and purchased their clothing while they were there. William aspired to being a man of substance.

Times and circumstances interfered. Frank didn't want to farm — the rail road beckoned; he made his way up to engineer with Union Pacific. Charles' untimely death in October, 1923, was a shattering blow. After more than forty years of farming and ranching, they retired and moved to Central City.

They lived at 406 D Street at the time of his death on June 25, 1949. Mrs. Johnston was moved to Denver where she lived with Bill and Margaret until her death came July 22, 1950. Both are buried in the Burke Cemetery northwest of Central City.

Today, their inherent faith in farming and building lives in Merrick County is being carried on by several of their progeny. *Respectfully submitted by a Grandson, Carroll Johnston & Nadine*

MRS. VERNIE JOHNSTON

Mrs. James (Vernie) Johnston.

Now, I have lived in Merrick County over eighty-three years. In 1897 we were living near Bryan, Ohio. In December they had a sale. Loaded two horses and the furniture, also two seated buggy and new wagon in a box car. A young man came with the car. I was eleven years when my parents, Jake and Elizabeth Weber left by train to make our home on a farm two miles east of Archer. There were three girls and one boy. We lived in Central City two months — until we could get on the farm where we lived for seven years. Since then, I have never lived further than twelve and one half miles.

In 1905 I was married to James Johnston. Seventy-five years ago we raised a family of four boys and two girls. Lloyd and Floyd, twins, now live — Lloyd in California, Floyd in Florida. Frances Holtz lives in Lincoln, Leonard in Florida, Percy in Maryland, Ruby Olsen here in Central City. My husband died in 1964. We had lived on several farms and in 1922, we moved to Central City where all the children graduated. We have twelve grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.

I can pick out houses north of the tracks here in Central City and some of the stores. One is where Gamble's is now. Three homes on E Street were here in 1897. Now called Ace Apartments was our Dr. Whittaker's home. The Museum was Ike Traver's home and the U.P. rail road was single track and all the sidewalks were board walk-not too wide. The street lamps were kerosene oil and were filled each evening, lit, and burned until morning when they would burn themselves out. The Methodist Church was two blocks from where we lived. So we would go in the morning and we girls did the dishes and the folks lit the lantern and went in the evening. I remember the old wooden depot and the wind mill and wooden tank where the train engines took on water. My husband and I bought the Kombrink house north of the elevator where we lived over twenty five years. So, as I am over ninety-four years, I have seen many changes in rail road as many passenger trains and one fast mail train never stopped. About one P.M. it caught the mail sack and picked it up and kicked out a bag for Central City. Since coming to Central City in 1897 there have been many changes. We now have pavements. I remember that Mr. Jake Fueherer with two big horses ran the sprinkler wagon and the streets were lined with hitching posts and horses hitched to buggys, wagons, carts, or just with saddles. Now it's lined with cars and pavement. In 1897 the old stand was still with us many years.

The picture is of Mr. and Mrs. James N. Johnston and family taken July 24th, 1955. Mr. Johnston passed away May 18th, 1964. *Submitted by Mrs. Vernie Johnston*

JAMES B. JONES FAMILY

James Blaine Jones came to Merrick County in about 1904. He had moved to Chapman from Fremont County, Iowa, with his father, Daniel S. Jones and a younger sister, Nellie June Jones. The family made the move to Merrick County after the children's mothers' death in 1902, to be near an older married sister, Mrs. Chester (May) Hilyer and family.

James (Jim) met and later married Edna Raser. Edna was the eldest of eight children of Clay and Alma Raser. Edna's brothers were Sumner, Forest, Howard, Jessie, and Clark Raser. Her sisters were Lou Emma (Mrs. Emmons Wiegert) and Blanche (Mrs. Ernest Hudnall).

The Raser family lived on the farm about one and one-half miles northwest of Chapman, which had been homesteaded in 1873 by Clays' father, Wesley Raser, and his mother Permelia.

Jim and Edna left Merrick County in 1913 to farm in Mills County, Iowa. In 1916, they returned to Nebraska, again in Merrick County. They built a new home a block west of the business area on the main street in Chapman, which remained their home for the remainder of their lives. It was a large two-story home, with a porch that curved around two sides of the house, a very comfortable and memorable home to have grown up in. We had many



Jim and Edna Jones

large Raser family dinners at our home, and many happy memories from that home.

Jones' house was also a favorite home for many church parties and socials.

Jim and Edna and children were very active members of the Methodist Church, and it seems most Sundays found the minister's family or other families having dinner with us.

Five children were born to Jim and Edna, the first son living only a few hours. There were two more sons, Wayne and Howard, followed by sisters Fay and Edith. All attended the Chapman Grade and High School, the same school which Edna had graduated from when it was only an 11 year school.

For several years, when the children were small, the family lived on the T. B. Hord Ranch at Chapman, where Jim was employed as a cattle and sheep feeder.

In July, 1945, Jim passed away and the following December, Edna died. Their son Wayne never married, and he died in 1954.

Howard married Irene Hudnall, daughter of Vernon and Myrtle Hudnall, Merrick County. They now live in Tuscon, Arizona, and have one son living in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Fay married Lawrence Haradon from Cedar Bluffs, Saunders County, Nebraska. They now live in Portland, Oregon. Their two daughters and families also live in Portland. They have five grandsons.

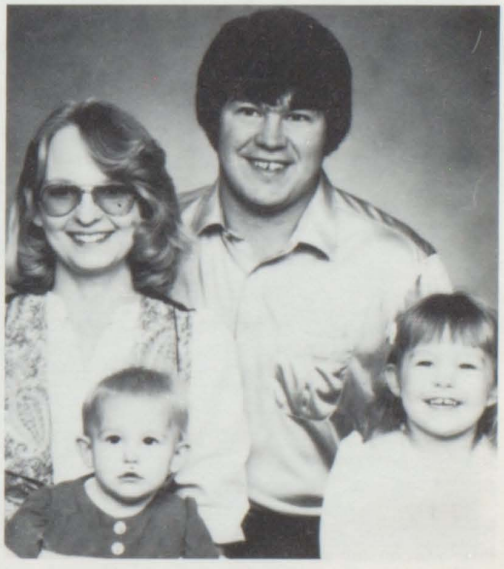
Edith married Ledrue Bottorff of Grand Island, Hall County, Nebraska. Edith later moved to Oregon where she died in Portland in 1966. She left two daughters, two sons, and four grandchildren. *Submitted by Fay Jones Haradon*

RANDY JURZENSKI FAMILY

Anitz Marie Schipman, daughter of Edwin Carl and Melba Christine Bergstrom Schipman, was born on June 10, 1958, at the Howard County



Mr. and Mrs. James N. Johnston and family — 1955



Randy and Anita Jurzenski Family — 1980

Hospital in St. Paul, Nebraska.

Anita was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church. Her godparents are Donald Schipman and Betty Spangenberg Schipman.

Anita was an active member of 4-H.

Anita attended school at Zion Lutheran School. She was confirmed in March 1972, was a member of the Walther League for four years and also was member of the church choir.

Anita's mother, Melba, passed away January 30, 1974, leaving Anita's father, Edwin, a younger brother, Robert and sister Susan at home to share the household chores. Anita, aged fifteen, organized the family chores and budget with the advice of her older brother, Albert, and wife, Naomi.

Anita attended High School in Palmer. She participated in many school activities. She helped form the school's first girls' basketball team, which was approved for interschool sports in 1975. Anita was one of the starting five on the team. Anita is also mentioned in the *Who's Who Among Music Students in American High Schools* book. Anita graduated in May 1976. She received two scholarships for college.

Anita met Randy Lyle Jurzenski in Elba, Nebraska. Randy was born on June 13, 1957 to Lavern Leo and Doris Mae Wolfert Jurzenski. Randy was baptized and conformed at St. Peter and Paul Church in St. Paul, Nebraska.

Randy was a member of 4-H and F.F.A. and exhibited his projects at the Howard County Fair. Randy participated in school activities, such as: basketball, football, wrestling, band, track, class plays. Randy was on the student council and class officers. In 1975 Randy was the Homecoming King at the Elba High School.

After school hours Randy also worked at Tumas Garage as an apprentice mechanic and Novotny's Electric as an apprentice electrician. Randy graduated from Elba High School in 1975.

Randy and Anita were married on August 7, 1976 at Zion Lutheran Church in Worms.

In September 1976, Anita went to the Grand Island School of Business, majoring in accounting. She graduated in June 1977.

After the birth of their first child, Angela, Anita started work at the Sears Roebuck and Company until they moved to Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Randy was an insurance salesman in Scottsbluff.

Anita was due to have another child at the end of December 1979. Her sister, Susan, was due, too, the first part of December of the same year. They both had daughters the 26th of December 1979, in the same hospital, with the same doctor, in the same room.

Randy and Anita have two children: Angela Christine, born August 2, 1977 at the St. Francis Hospital in Grand Island. Angela was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church at Worms. Her god-parents are Jimmy Gene Wolfert and Susan Louise Wolfert. Their second child is Jessica Doris, born December 26, 1979, at the Lutheran Hospital, Grand Island. She was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church, Worms. Her god-parents are Albert and Naomi Schipman. *Submitted by Anita Jurzenski*

THE JUSTICE FAMILY

Our roots didn't start in Merrick County but we have tried to be good transplants. Our early years were spent in Saline and Seward Counties.

In the 20's, transportation to high school in Beaver Crossing was supplied by horse and buggy, and horseback. More learning was acquired later at U.N.

Joe Justice came to Central City on March 1, 1931, as a registered pharmacist. Living quarters were very limited at that time, so he had a room upstairs in the home which is now the Solt Funeral Home. Two weeks later, an apartment at "Bonnie Briar," owned by Fred Ratcliff, was vacated so I (Irene) came to Central City. I started reading the Republican and Nonpareil papers to learn names of people and family relationships.

Joe took over the management of the Locke Drug Store, then becoming a partner with George Locke, later purchasing all of the store.

The depression and drought years were difficult, and many long hours were spent at work. Money was scarce, but people had good times. Evening games of "kitten ball" near North Ward school were a great source of entertainment for the many competitive teams, as well as a big crowd of spectators.

Joe served on the school board a number of years, and was president for several terms. During this time, the auditorium was built.

Irene taught school four years in Saline and Seward Counties. She remained a homemaker after marriage.

The family tree branched out as two sons were added. James J. Justice is a registered pharmacist and has his own pharmacy in Central City. He worked in the former Justice and Locke Drug Store until it was destroyed by explosion and fire in 1975. Jim married Barbara Tooley and they have a daughter, Jane.

John (Jack) Justice is a dentist and lives in Columbus, Nebraska. His family of three are John, Susan, and Joey.

Joe continued working a few years after retirement age. His retirement was very sudden due to the fire that consumed a whole block of business places.

After living here for fifty years, Central City is "Home." We have seen progress for the betterment of living conditions and recreational facilities, and hope we have been of some help in making some of these improvements possible. We like Central City and the Platte Valley of Merrick County, and have been very happy here. *Submitted by Irene Justice*

CARL & IDA KAISER

Carl J. Kaiser was born December 10, 1855, in Traulitten, Kreis-Holland, E. Prussia, Germany.

Ida Erdman Kaiser was born October 5, 1863, in Bauditten, Kreis, Salsfeldt, E. Prussia, Germany.

Carl and Ida were married December 27, 1883, in Germany, and emigrated to America in 1884. They settled near the town of Grand Island, Nebraska.

The couple had thirteen children: Richard, Ernest, Gustav, Emma (Huebner), Anna (Bruns), Oscar, Walter, Bertha (Wagner), Ida (Steinke), Hattie (Scheer), Fred, and two sons who died as infants, both named Jacob. Two of this generation served in World War I.

Carl and Ida and their family were lifelong members of the Lutheran faith, attending Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Island while they lived near there, then transferring to Zion Lutheran at Worms when they retired in 1905 and moved to Worms. They celebrated their Sixtieth Wedding anniversary together. For a time they lived in one of the oldest houses in Hall County, a house which is now part of the Railroad Town exhibit at Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer in Grand Island.

Ida died at the age of eighty-three on December 22, 1946, and Carl died at the age of ninety-one on January 25, 1947, just over a month apart. Both are buried in the old Grand Island cemetery.

Four children still living in 1981 are: Alfred, Walter, Anna Bruns and Hattie Scheer. *Submitted from manuscripts by Hattie Thresa Kaiser Scheer*

ROY KAISER FAMILY

My twin brother Gerald Marvin and I were born January 19, 1930 to Ernest and Ella Gleason, on a farm seven miles north of Central City, known as the Peterson farm. We attended grade school at District 21 and graduated from the Central City High School in 1947. We were born and raised during the depression years. The folks farmed, milked cows, raised chickens and a big garden. We can remember the hard years but they were happy years and always plenty of food on the table.

When I was seventeen I worked as a hired girl for Cap and Hazel Boelts and also Marion and Pat Kyes. While working at the Kyes' I met Roy V. Kaiser who farmed the Hubert Boelts place near Archer. Roy and Marion farmed a lot together. Marion invited Roy over a lot for supper and playing cards.

Roy and I were married September 12, 1948 at the Fairview Church, now the site of the parsonage. We lived on the Boelts place for five months. That was the year of the terrible blizzard beginning on October 18 and it snowed hard all winter. We moved to the Conner farm in February 1949 where my sister and husband, Dorothy and Harold Ferguson had lived for seven years. We could not drive on the



Roy and Geraldine Kaiser — 32nd Anniversary

road to move in as the snow drifts were several feet high so we went through an alfalfa field.

Roy and I have been on the Conner farm for thirty-two years. In these years of farming, Roy has raised corn, milo, wheat, alfafa, pigs and always had a large herd of cattle.

Roy and I are the parents of eight children: Roger our oldest, married Elsa Jean Holtorf August 5, 1972 has one son Samuel Bernhardt and lives in Lincoln; Norm married Kay Dantzler September 4, 1976, one daughter Rebecca Kay and owns the ETC shop in Central City; Keith married Teresa Colombe October 15, 1974, has one son Timothy Philip and a daughter Leah Beth and lives in Kearney; Dwayne married Kathy Shafer September 10, 1977 and lives in Holdrege; Brian at the present time is going to Mill Valley College in California; Teresa is a Senior and will graduate in May and plans to attend Kearney State College in the fall; Evan is a freshman and Susan a seventh grader.

We are members at St Paul's Lutheran Church. I teach Sunday School and confirmation and Roy is a trustee and we keep active in the church.

An interesting note on the Conner farm is that the past sixty years there has been a Gleason farming it all but eleven years when the Raymond Mesner family farmed, and also the same family has owned it.

Delos and Ella Conner purchased the Metcalf Ranch in 1889 and then was known as the Conner Farm. My grandparents William and Sophia Gleason lived on it from 1907 until 1914, then my parents Ernest and Ella Gleason lived from 1914 until 1929. Harold and Dorothy Ferguson moved here in 1941 until the spring of 1949, and we have farmed it ever since. The Conner's only daughter, Mable owned the farm when we moved here until her death in 1967. The present owner is her only son Harry Burke who lives in Clearwater, Florida. *Submitted by Geraldine Kaiser*

DWIGHT KAMINSKY FAMILY

The Dwight Kaminsky family came to Merrick County from Red Cloud, Nebraska in 1937. They located on a farm about 6 miles northeast of Clarks. At this time the family consisted of Dwight, his wife Gertrude, son Russell, daughter Jeanette, and Merle, an older brother of Dwight. Dwight was born in Webster County, Nebraska October 18, 1899, and Gertrude in Idaho June 23, 1900. They were married June 11, 1924. Their son, Russell Allen, was born October 31, 1927 and Jeanette Gay on July 1, 1929 at Hastings, Nebraska.

Besides field crops and cattle, the Kaminsky's main occupation was raising turkeys, a flock of about 4000 a year. Many were sold for eating while some were kept for breeding purposes.

Mr. and Mrs. Kaminsky were good Christian people and very active in community affairs. They were members of the Clarks Methodist Church where they served on various committees and held offices. Mr. Kaminsky was an active member of the Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, Lions Club, and American Legion. Mrs. Kaminsky enjoyed and

worked in Eastern Star, Extension Club, Research Club, and Sunnyside Club.

In 1946, four year old Camille Kay came to live with the Kaminsky's as their adopted daughter. Russell, Jeanette, and Camille all attended school district #16, and later Clarks Public School from which they all graduated.

Russell Kaminsky and Max Nelson opened up a business in Clarks in 1948 known as the K and N Electric. They sold appliances, did electrical wiring, and service work. Russell is a graduate of the University of Nebraska, and at the time of this writing has been with Western Geophysical Company for many years. He and his wife, Yvonne, now reside in Houston, Texas.

Jeanette attended Nebraska Central College and Kearney State, then taught in rural schools. She was married in 1949 to Dale Beck, and they now live north of Silver Creek.

In 1949, Dwight and Gertrude purchased the K and N Electric, had a farm sale, and moved to Clarks because of a health problem of Dwight's. Despite his failing health, Dwight was at the store every day, and they never altered their bright outlook on life contained in a favorite verse of theirs; "Tis easy enough to be pleasant when life flows along like a song, but the man worthwhile is the man who can smile when everything goes dead wrong." They operated the business until Dwight's death in 1957. Gertrude was killed in a car accident in 1958.



Dwight Kaminsky Family — 1953
Back l-r — Jeanette, Russell. **Front l-r** — Dwight, Camille, Gertrude.

Following her mother's death, Camille lived with her sister Jeanette and family until her marriage to Greg Johnson of Osceola, Nebraska in 1960. They had two children, Troy and Kristine, who reside in Polk County at this time. Camille passed away in 1972.

After the family moved into Clarks, Merle Kaminsky owned and operated a shoe repair shop there for a number of years until his death in 1963.
Written by Jeanette (Kaminsky) Beck

KELLER FAMILY

Evans LaVerne Keller was born in a sod house in Cherry County, Nebraska. His parents were Lillian Elizabeth Vandegrift and Oliver James Keller.

His paternal great grandfather and grandparents migrated from Lancaster County , Pennsylvania, when Oliver was five years old. They traveled in a covered wagon, spent the winter in Omaha, then on to Cherry County in the spring. His maternal grandparents came from the Eastern United States to Kansas and then to Cherry County where homesteads were available.

Oliver and Lillian were married, got their own homestead, and "proved up" on it. After a tornado destroyed their home, a "soddy," neighbors helped rebuild it, but another tornado took that home. They bought a farm on the Loup River northeast of Palmer and moved there. LaVerne was one and one-half years old. They resided on this farm until his father's death when Lillian moved into Palmer.

They had five children. Two are now living: Marie Walling in Pontiac, Michigan, and Martha Maddox of Palmer.

LaVerne attended the rural school of his district and graduated from Palmer High School. He studied music, especially cornet and trumpet in Omaha, and enjoyed playing in the Palmer Band and in small dance bands. He loved singing, especially in quartettes and choirs.

Bessie Jeffreys was born near Beatrice, Nebraska. Her parents were Edward D. and Ida Eby Jeffreys. They moved to Central City in 1912 and she received most of her education there. She attended Cotner College at Bethany, Lincoln, Nebraska. She taught school seven years.

LaVerne and Bessie were married in 1926 and lived on a farm near Palmer. In 1932 they moved to Chapman and that fall their daughter, Twila, was born. She grew to adulthood there, attending school and finishing high school. She attended Kearney State College. She, too, studied music, especially piano and became an accomplished pianist, teaching piano. A son was born to them but he did not live.

In Kearney, Twila met Jerome K. Martin, a student. He lived all his life in Kearney, graduating from college there in 1951. He and Twila were married and he received his "greetings" from Uncle Sam. He was a Lieutenant serving in Germany when their son, Jeffrey, was born. After his discharge they made their home in Denver, Colorado, where he was employed by the Shell Chemical Company. They have two other children, Gregory and Lisa.

The Kellers made their home near Chapman until LaVerne's death in 1979. They were active in church. LaVerne was Sunday School Superintendent many years and Bessie taught Sunday School. They enjoyed singing in the church choir and Lone Tree Singers. Much time was given to civic duties: County Fair, P.T.A., Extension work, school activities, Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star. Bessie resides in Houston, Texas, near her daughter and family.

Though I am now a Texan and cheer the "Astros" my roots and "A Heap O' Livin" make my heart jump at a "Big Red Touchdown" or a Nebraska auto license plate. Nebraska is my homeland. My memories are very dear to me. One never will find more precious friends than right there in that particular county and state in the middle of the U.S.A. *Submitted by Bessie Keller*

OLIVER KELLER FAMILY

Oliver James Keller was born in St. Mary, Kansas, March 12, 1871. When about seven years of age he came with his parents to Nebraska. They lived at Ord, Nebraska for a few years before settling in Cherry County where he resided until he had grown to manhood.

He was united in marriage to Lillian Vandegrift on March 10, 1897 at Valentine, Nebraska. Two children were born here, Evans LaVern and Helen Marie, before leaving Cherry County and moving to Merrick County in the fall of 1902. They moved to the farm where Osvil Glynn now lives and lived there for a few years. It was here Velma Irene was born. They then bought the farm one half mile north and resided there until his death May 30, 1942. Two more children were added to the family, Martha Elizabeth and Charles Everett.

The house they lived in was a very small one but they managed to board the school teacher. In about the year of 1915 they built a new large modern home, one of the first in Loup Valley. A large tile barn was also erected. I played many basketball games in that hay mow when I went to school at District 31. After the family had grown and left home except for Charles, they had the misfortune of losing their home to a fire in 1932. They moved into the garage and built on to it making a nice livable home.

After my father's death, Charles was called into the service of his country, so my mother moved into Palmer.

Charles was known to many as Shotgun, so I'll tell you how he got that nickname. When he was around ten years old, our sister Marie and husband Cecil Walling were staying with our folks. Cecil was quite a hunter so he kept his gun in the coat room entrance. Charles had orders not to touch that gun. This particular morning Dad had gone to the barn to chore and my mother to the hen house to feed the chickens. I was in the kitchen fixing our school lunches when all of a sudden a gun was fired. The folks ran to the house to find Charles standing white as a ghost holding the gun. A window casing got the blast but the window pane was not even cracked. Cecil started calling Charles Shotgun and the name stayed with him. At this time, October of 1980, my sister Marie Walling and myself, Martha Maddox are the only living children of Oliver J. Keller.
Submitted by Martha Keller Maddox

RICHARD KEY

Richard Key, born October 25, 1836, at Quarrington, Lincolnshire, England, son of John Key and Elizabeth Daniel(s), married Rebecca Carter. Rebecca was born in England, March 30, 1841. Four of Richard and Rebecca Key's five children, Frederick (1870-1951), Herbert (1873-1960), Walter (1875-1952), and Ruth (1878-1904), were born in England.

The 1900 Merrick County, Nebraska Census, Clarksville precinct, indicates that the Richard Key family came to the United States in 1882, though some records indicate they may have arrived as early as 1880. They are believed to have come directly to Clarks; settling in the vicinity at that time. Family records give the birth of their fifth child, a daughter, Rose, on July 23, 1882, at Clarks, Nebraska, and the family appear on the 1885 Merrick County, Nebraska Census, in Clarksville precinct. Mr. and Mrs. Key seem to have purchased some land, in the summer of 1884, apparently in



O. J. Keller Family — Martha, Velma, Marie, Mom, Dad, LaVerne, Charles



Richard and Rebecca Key Stone — Clarks Cemetery

Polk County.

Richard Key, as his brother, Thomas Key, had already done in 1882, registered a brand, the letter K, at the Merrick County Courthouse, April 23, 1887; this brand to be used on the right shoulder of his cattle. In the spring of 1893, Mr. and Mrs. Key purchased from John F. Cole, with Mr. Cole's help, a farm located east of Clarks, adjacent to the Clarks Cemetery. Mr. Key died that summer, August 17, 1893. The following notice appeared in the "Central City Courier", a week later:

"Died of heart disease, on the 17th inst., Richard Keys. Mr. Keys was apparently in good health and was out in the hayfield all day. He was taken sick in the evening and before a doctor could be summoned he passed away."

Rebecca Key died at Clarks, December 5, 1895. Richard and Rebecca Key are buried in the Clarks Cemetery. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

FREDERICK KEY

Frederick Key, born April 12, 1870, in Quarrington, Lincolnshire, England, oldest child of Richard and Rebecca (Carter) Key, came to the United States, with his parents, at age ten, according to his obituary. He settled with them in the Clarks, Nebraska, vicinity, and married Mary Ellen ("Ella") Tobias, of Clarks, March 23, 1898.

The farm his parents had purchased from John F. Cole, in 1893, was partitioned, in 1901, after their deaths; "Fred" acquired the unimproved 80, and his brothers, "Herb" and "Walt", the 80 that included the building site.

Herb and Walt Key remained bachelors, and continued to make that farm home; Walt, of a quiet and retiring nature, until he suffered a stroke, and died in the Central City hospital, March 13, 1952, and Herb, until failing health forced him to move to a nursing home, in Grand Island, in 1955, where he died, November 30, 1960. Herb was known for his



Richard Key, Sons — **L-r** — Fred, Herb and Walt.

mules. He had a jack, called Barnham, which he greatly prized. Barnham is said to have cost $2800.00. Herb and Walt are buried in the Clarks Cemetery.

Fred and Ella Key had three sons: Richard, born August 20, 1899 — died five weeks later; Earl and Harry. Earl recalled that his mother was of Pennsylvania Dutch extraction, and had become acquainted with his dad through her brother, Dave Tobias, who was running a livery barn, in Clarks. Earl said his dad had a house built on his 80, and then moved other buildings out from Clarks. They farmed and raised cattle. Earl farmed with his dad until 1940, and like his father and grandfather, continued in that occupation, until his own retirement, in 1969. Earl well recalls agricultural advancements over the years; especially the coming of hybrid corn and irrigation. Harry Edward Key, the youngest, worked as a trainman, on the Union Pacific Railroad, and died at Grand Island, in 1966. Mrs. Fred Key died December 28, 1930. It was about this time Earl recalled, that his dad lost about $4,000.00, when a bank closed in Clarks. Earl also lost some money. Fred Key was affiliated with the Methodist and Congregational Churches, in Clarks, and a member of the Order of Highlanders. He made the Clarks vicinity his home until about 2 years before his death, when failing health forced a move to Grand Island; where he died, May 5, 1951. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Key, and son, Richard, are buried in the Clarks Cemetery, on Fred's parent's plot.

Fred Key's two sisters married and each had families. Ruth married David Tobias. Dave was born at Greenfield, Iowa, May 8, 1869. Ruth died in 1904; leaving five small children. Dave later remarried. Ruth and Dave are buried in the Clarks Cemetery. Rose, the youngest, and the last of the Richard Key children, when she died, September 13, 1965, married Henry Sims. Henry was born on a farm near Clarks, Nebraska, October 1, 1876, and died, January 6, 1937. Mr. and Mrs. Sims are buried at Pierce Chapel Cemetery. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly*

EARL RICHARD KEY

Earl Richard Key, named for his Grandfather, Richard Key, and a cousin in England, was born, December 29, 1900, just east of Clarks, Nebraska, on his Grandfather Key's farm, son of Frederick and Mary Ellen (Tobias) Key.

Earl attended District 11 School at Clarks and completed seven grades; then started farming with his father. He began raising hogs, acquiring his first two sows, thoroughbred Hampshires, from his dad's cousin, Will Key. By the mid-1930's he had about 1000 head of sheep.

On Thanksgiving Day, 1933, Earl married Frances "Kezia" Parkins, at Chapman, Nebraska, and farmed near there until 1936, when Mrs. Key died. They had one child, JoElissa, who married Bob Larson, lives in St. Louis, Missouri, and has three children. Mrs. Key was buried at Chapman.

In 1929, Earl began trucking out of Clarks, with a new, 2-ton, 1929 Chevrolet. He hauled livestock into Omaha, bringing machinery and barrels of oil back. Earl recalled that alot of the roads between Clarks and Omaha were dirt at that time. In 1934-35, he bought a newer, larger Chevrolet truck. He sold both outfits in 1936.

During the late 1930's, Earl worked for Charley McCarty for $25.00 a month, feeding cattle. McCarty operated the Thumel Ranch and is said to have fed about 1000 head of cattle year-round; operating out of stockyards along the U.P. between Clarks and Central City. McCarty is also said to have had 21 sections of land up near Atkinson.

Earl got a job in 1938 on a steelgang with the Union Pacific Railroad; going with a crew from Silver Creek to Dale Creek, Wyoming, working from there into Cheyenne (where the gang broke up), banking curves and raising tracks for the new streamliners. He then went to Laramie and worked at a cement plant for a couple of months before returning to Nebraska to bring he and his dad's cattle home from McCarty's Ranch.

Earl continued to be associated with his dad on the farm until 1940, when, at the urging of his mother, who grew up around Bellflower, Illinois, he went to Illinois and settled near Rochelle; working



Earl R. Key — 1977

for a time for Del Monte Canning, driving three head of mules on "a sweet-corn snapping wagon", while three others gathered sweetcorn. "We worked rain or shine", Earl recalled.

In 1944, Earl began working on a farm for Charley Swift, east of Elburn, Illinois, feeding cattle and farming. There he became acquainted with Ida Harley, whom he married, at her homeplace, September 4, 1947. He then began farming for himself on the 80 acres where he presently makes his home; erected a very fine corncrib, in 1949; built a large machine shed, in 1962, and raised corn, oats and soybeans. In 1969, Earl retired from full-time farming, after suffering a heart attack, but continues to live on and maintain the grounds; which are immaculate.

Ida, who was born and lived her entire life in the Elburn area and taught school for 40 years in Elburn and Geneva, passed away in 1976. *Compiled and written by Thomas E. Kelly, From recollections by Earl R. Key*

THOMAS KEY

Thomas Key, was born August 15, 1838, at Quarrington, Lincolnshire, England, son of John Key and Elizabeth Daniel(s). June 2, 1863, at Quarrington, Thomas Key married Ann Smith. Ann was born at Quarrington, November 9, 1841, daughter of John Smith and Elizabeth Collishaw. Their children: George, Mary Jane, Elizabeth Ann, Louisa, Annie, Effie, Minnie and Florrie, were all born in England.

In the Spring of 1881, the family came to America and settled on 200 acres Mr. Key purchased, that



Thomas and Ann Smith Key
ca. 1885

spring, two and one-half miles southwest of Clarks, Nebraska, for $1500.00. He added to his original holding; including 160 acres of pastureland, north of Clarks, purchased in 1899. Thomas Key registered the brand K at the Merrick County Courthouse, May 29, 1882; to be used on the left shoulder of his cattle.

The youngest child, John William ("Will") Key, was born on this farm, in a sod house, July 5, 1882. The sod house was soon replaced, to the south, by a two-story frame house, which still stands on the farm, though it has been unoccupied about six years and is in poor repair. The unmarked grave of an early pioneer is located in the trees, west of the house. Will later built a large barn. The barn, "his pride," was painted gray with white trim and had a good haymow floor, so that dances could be held there. After years of neglect, it collapsed about four or five years ago, and lays as it fell.

Mrs. Key, who had never been content in America, died on the farm, June 13, 1907. Her body laid in state in the livingroom, at the house. She was buried at the Clarks Cemetery. Mr. Key would load the mower in the back of the buggy, go to the Clarks Cemetery, and mow all around his plot; "he never left a blade standing", recalled his daughter-in-law, Mrs. J.W. Key. In later years, when his son, Will, had taken over most of the farming, Tom Key, and his daughter, Annie, lived on the east end of the place, in a small, one-story frame house he had built, and Will and his family lived in the main house. Thomas Key died at the farm, February 14, 1925, and was buried at the Clarks Cemetery.

Will continued farming 159 acres of the homeplace. He was an "energetic worker" and perhaps best known for the Hampshire hogs he raised. His activities, however, were greatly curtailed by severe illness, in 1919. Will lost most of the use of his right side, and the ability to talk. Dorthy, his youngest daughter, never heard her father speak. He would motion with his hands that he would leave the farm in a box. Will was the last to die there, March 26, 1936. Mrs. J.W. Key owned about 159 acres of the original farm when she died, March 16, 1980, though she had moved to Clarks shortly after her husband's death, and the farm was rented out.

This farm sold to settle her estate, effective March 1, 1981; a sale that ends a 100-year history. *Information compiled and written by: Thomas E. Kelly*

GEORGE KEY

George Key was born in Quarrington, Lincolnshire, England, February 13, 1864. He came to Nebraska, in 1881, with his parents, Thomas (1838-1925) and Ann (Smith) Key (1841-1907) and seven sisters: Mary Jane, Elizabeth Ann, Louisa, Annie, Effie, Minnie and Florrie. A brother, William, was born in 1882.

George later returned to England where he married Leah Towns at Aunsby in Lincolnshire. He brought his wife back to Nebraska where he farmed and they had seven children: Lillian, Edith, Jessie, Sidney, Ernest, Arthur and Florence, who died as a child.

Leah was killed in 1905 in a farming mishap (Note: Mrs. Key was working five head of horses on a gang plow, while pregnant. She unhitched the horses as a storm approached, but had a runaway, and was drug over a sod cave or storm celler and died a short time later. A death notice, which appeared in the "Central City Nonpareil", Thursday, November 23, 1905, notes that: "Her gentle loving ways and beautiful character endeared her to every one who knew her and the church was filled with sorrowing friends." Mrs. Key was buried in the Clarks Cemetery. The daughter, Florence, is also buried in the Clarks Cemetery — Thomas E. Kelly); afterwhich George and some of the children went to Alliance, Nebraska. He remarried, but had problems so returned to Clarks; then went to Arvada, Colorado where he worked for a time before moving on to Utah.

George married again and had a son, Joseph. The marriage failed somehow; he continued working as a farm laborer until his age caused him to retire. He went to live with a daughter, Edith, in Lusk, Wyoming, where he died, June 9, 1935, and was buried.

Life had been quite difficult for George Key, and he was a lonely man with his children all living in different areas. *Submitted by Evelyn (Key) Buch and Thomas E. Kelly*

ARTHUR ALBERT KEY

Arthur Albert Key was born October 3, 1900, in Central City, Nebraska. His parents were George and Leah (Towns) Key, originally from Lincolnshire, England. He had four sisters: Lillian, Edith, Jessie and Florence; and two brothers, Sidney and Ernest.

As a young boy, he followed his brothers when they crossed the Platte River on the ice to visit an aunt who lived on an island in the river. He remembered being run over by an ice wagon when he was quite young and riding a horse to drive cows out to pasture and back each day. On one of these trips, he had an experience with a rattlesnake that left an impression on his mind that lasted throughout his life. The horse stopped suddenly at the sight of the snake, throwing him over the horse's head. By backing away, the horse saved him from falling on the snake.

After his mother died, when he was five, his father took some of the children to Alliance, Nebraska and later to Arvada, Colorado to manage a farm for a water company. A few years later they went to Utah. He went to school up to the eighth grade before dropping out to become a farm hand in Tooele County, Utah.

Arthur Key married Constance Ramona Titcomb, November 17, 1924, and raised six children: Reed, Evelyn, Arlene, Frances, Judith and Lowell. Mrs. Key died in 1955; son, Lowell, in 1979 and Mr. Key in 1980.

"Art" worked fifty-six years at the Anaconda Smelter at Tooele, Utah, before retirement. He was an avid hunter and fisherman until his health and age curtailed his activities. *Submitted by Evelyn (Key) Buch*

GEORGE & MARY JANE SPEAR

My father, George H. Spear, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, October 30, 1864, to E.H. and Martha Jones Spear. His mother was born in Pawnal, Maine, March 14, 1841, and died at Canton, Illinois. George was educated in the Boston public schools and lived in that city until he was seventeen years old. He moved to Central City, Nebraska, with his parents, but lived in Illinois a short time at age 18.

My mother, Mary Jane Key, was born in Sleaford, England, to Thomas and Ann (Smith) Key, February 8, 1866. She came to America with her parents, sisters, and brother. They settled at Clarks, Nebraska. One brother, John Wm. Key, was born on a farm near Clarks.



George H. and Mary Jane Key Spear

June 11, 1885, George Spear and Mary Jane Key were married at Central City. Two daughters were born to this union. Grace Emily, born in Stromsburg, and Irma Louise, born in Norfolk. Grace died July 3, 1903, at the age of 17, from typhoid fever. Her Aunt Louisa Key, who was a trained nurse, came to care for her and contracted the disease, dying a year later.

My father was what might be termed a natural-born hotel man. Since nine years of age, he had worked in the office of the hotel conducted by his father. While still a young man, he became manager of a hotel at Stromsburg. Then he managed a hotel for Mr. Lehman in Columbus for nine years. After that, he took the management of the Oxnard Hotel in Norfolk for eight years. In 1902, he went on the road as traveling representative for the Conway and Thornburg Company, cigar manufacturers at Sioux City. Two years later, he became traveling representative for the L.P. Larson Company of Fremont.

My father died January 6, 1914, when I was eleven years old. He had one brother, Eugene A. Spear, and a sister, Emily "Lena" Spear Fisher. He was a faithful member of Trinity Episcopal Church and a member of the vestry. He was secretary of the local U.C.L. Lodge of Norfolk and also of the state organization. He was organizer and first exalted ruler of Norfolk's Elks Lodge #653, and was a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Eagles.

In 1915, a year after my father died, my mother and I took a summer trip to California to visit relatives. We went to the World's Fair in San Francisco. I remember the Tower of Jewels, the Palace of Fine Arts, and the delicious scones. Then we took the S.S. Beaver to Seattle. Going out the Golden Gate, I was thinking what a nice trip it would be. A half hour later, both Mother and I were stretched out on our bunks, seasick. Later, we took a train from Seattle to Bellingham. My mother's severe seasickness aggravated a stomach disorder, and all she could think of was to get home to



Leah Key Stone — Clarks Cemetery



Thomas and Ann Key Stone — Clarks Cemetery

Norfolk, Nebraska. At Spokane, my Aunt Minnie (Key) Phinney got on the train to be with us. She stayed with us until my mother passed away November 1, 1915.

After breaking up our home and packing things, my aunt took me to Cour d' Alene, Idaho, to live with her. It was rough to lose a father, mother, and home all in a little over a year at the age of 12. I said goodbye to a group of friends gathered at the depot and headed west. Eventually, I landed in Sonora, California, a little gold-mining town of 1848, where I met and married a wonderful man, Bradford Cave. We just celebrated our 43rd wedding anniversary. *Submitted by Irma Spear Cave*

JOSEPH KIDWILER FAMILY

Joseph Hardin Kidwiler was born March 29, 1875 between Robertson and Eagle City, Iowa, to Mr. and Mrs. A.F. (Ben) Kidwiler, a grandson of Jacob Kidwiler, who came to Hardin County with his family in the fall of 1850 from Virginia, locating near the present site of Eagle City. Joseph Kidwiler was named for his uncle, Joseph Hardin Kidwiler, the first white child born in the county.

Myrtle was born in Hardin County, Iowa, September 13, 1880 to James Blair Hathaway and Ella Bird Hathaway. She moved with them to Harrison County in 1889, and was graduated from Woodbine Normal in 1898. On July 28, 1899, she returned to Hardin County and taught school there for several years.



Joseph and Myrtle Kidwiler — March 1947

Joseph (Joe) Kidwiler and Myrtle Hathaway were married August 16, 1904, at the home of her parents in Missouri Valley, Iowa. Myrtle's parents moved to Merrick County, Nebraska, in 1905, and encouraged the Kidwilers to do likewise. In the winter of 1909, Joe purchased 640 acres of land seven miles north and one mile west of Central City, adjacent to the Hathaway property. He moved his wife and small son, Marion, with their household belongings, stock, and farm machinery to their new home early in the spring of 1910.

Joe was a good farmer and stock man, had the only saw mill in the area, and for many years was telephone lineman for Mead Township. He served as Democratic Committeeman, was a member of the Masonic Order, and of the Farm Bureau. Myrtle was active in the Homemakers Club, an affiliate of the County Extension Clubs thru the University of Nebraska, and a member of the Eastern Star.

Joe had the first Farmall tractor in Mead Township.

Due to Joe's failing health, they sold the farm in the fall of 1946 and moved to California to be close to their daughter. Joe died July 13, 1947 in Los Angeles. Myrtle died January 20, 1956 at the home of her daughter in La Canada, Calif. They are both buried in the family Cemetery at Iowa Falls, Iowa.

Joseph and Myrtle Kidwiler had three children: Marion, Dwain and Neva.

Marion Hathaway Kidwiler married Vera Hill of Central City, and they farmed grandfather James Hathaway's place for several years. During World War II, Marion worked at the bomber plant in Wichita, Kansas. After the war he and his family moved to Omaha, Nebraska where he was in the automotive repair business. They had three children: Patricia, Barbara and Jack. Marion died in Omaha on May 22, 1962.

Dwain Elwin Kidwiler married Velma McMillan Jayman of Rock River, Wyoming. They made their home in California, where Dwain was associated with the Bendix Corporation in Los Angeles. They had one son, Joseph. Dwain died December 21, 1966.

Neva Loraine Kidwiler married Paul Eugene Arthur of Central City. They made their home in La Canada, California where Paul was a butcher with the Safeway Stores. They had three children: Beverly, Gary and Jolene. Neva died February 26, 1961 and Paul died July 25, 1977. *Submitted by Vera H. Kidwiler*

DALE & BETTY KING

Betty Jane Watkins was born October 17, 1932 to Robert Lawrance and Nita Bernice Watkins at the home of Grace and Raymond Gibson on the College Section, near Central City, Nebraska. She started her schooling in the Archer School, then moved near Central City and attended District #8 school, graduating from the Central City High School in 1951. After graduating, she worked in Justice and Locke Drug Store and Hord Office. She married Dale Eugene King February 10, 1952 in the Friends Church in a double wedding, with her twin sister Barbara Jean and Dean Arden Sidders. She has one other sister, Mary Belle Svitak. Betty is a member of the Eastern Star and was Worthy Matron in 1967 and 1980.

Dale was born July 2, 1930 to Ralph and Inez Farley King. He graduated from the Central City High School in 1949. He served in the army in 1952 and served time in Korea. He was released in November 1954. He is a member of the American Legion Post #6, the Firing Squad, Masonic Lodge and the order of the Eastern Star. He was a Worthy Patron in 1980 and 1981. They are both members of the Christian Church. Dale served as Chairman of the Church Board many years. They live on a farm and he did commercial trucking several years.

They have six children, Jocelyn Marie born May 21, 1953. She graduated from the Central City High School and Grand Island School of Business. She took a big part in vocal music while in High School. She married Gary House March 3, 1973.

Gary was born January 2, 1954 to Charles and Jean House. Gary graduated from the Grand Island High School and they live in Kearney where he is employed with the Telephone Company. They have one son, Aaron Charles born February 14, 1960.

Elton Dale was born December 23, 1956. He graduated from the Central City High School in 1976 and attended Hastings Tech where he took diesel engineering. He farms and works in a car shop in Central City during the winter months. While in school he sang with the Nominus Expers and with various vocal groups. He married Ann Kathleen Kuhn April 2, 1977 in the Methodist Church in Central City. Ann was born February 4, 1958 to Larry and Gerry Jilg Kuhn. Ann graduated from the Clarks High School in 1976, and the Nurses School in Columbus as an LPN. They have one son, Matthew Jacob born October 18, 1979.



Dale King Family — 1971

Marilyn Jane was born December 12, 1960. She graduated from the Central City High School in 1979 and the Grand Island School of Business in 1980. She is employed with Chef Industries in Grand Island. She took a big part in vocal music while in school and was a 4H member many years.

Marcia Ann was born August 31, 1962 and graduated from the Central City High School in 1981. She was in 4H ten years, was a member of the All State Chorus, 1980 FHA Queen, and Majorette three years. She also played with the band. She will attend Hastings Tech in August.

Carolyn Faye was born June 13, 1966 and will enter the tenth grade in Central City in August. She is active in vocal music and FHA.

David Eugene was born January 19, 1971 and will enter the fifth grade in August. He is in a 4H bird club this year and starting in Little League Baseball. *Submitted by Mrs. Nita Watkins*

ALVA & AGNES KISER

Alva O.Kiser was born son of William P. Kiser and Josephine Hoover Kiser on September 13, 1887, in Keith County near Big Springs, Nebraska. As a small boy of eight years old, he rode his pony alongside of his family's covered wagon when they moved to Merrick County in 1895. They moved on a farm three miles south and one mile east of Archer, Nebraska.

On March 15, 1916, Alva and Agnes Anderson were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Anderson near Archer. To this union were born five sons: Robert A. Kiser, born Dec. 12, 1916. He served in the army from January 28, 1941, until July 3, 1945. On May 15, 1946, he married Miss Irene Larson. Three sons were born: James, John and Thomas.

Marvin R. Kiser married Aunilee I. Brannan on April 21, 1939. Five children: Jacqueline, Richard, Marlene, Gerald and Lila Dynelle. William D. Kiser, born November 8, 1921. Donald E. Kiser, born February 25, 1925. He served in Germany during the second world war. He married Dorthy Milbourn on April 19, 1949. One son: Larry. Norval L. Kiser born Nov. 1, 1929. He served in the Air Force for four years. He and Miss Ruby Clason were married on Aug. 17, 1952. Six children: Lori, Debra, Susan, Becky, Patricia and one son, Brad.

All of the Kiser boys attended school at District #46 in Merrick County and high school in Archer and Central City, Nebraska.

In the year of 1938, in February, their home was destroyed by fire and they moved to the old Kiser farm. In 1952, they moved to Central City, Nebraska. Alva farmed all these years and continue to go to the farm until his death on April 22, 1967. Agnes stayed in their home until 1975 when she moved to an apartment.

Today she is eighty-eight years old, and still in her home. She still enjoys playing cards and Scrabble with her friends. As a daughter-in —law I couldn't have picked a better friend or more considerate person for a mother-in-law. *Jan. 26, 1981; Written by Mrs. Marvin (Aunilee) Kiser*

MARVIN & AUNILEE KISER

Marvin R. Kiser was born June 28, 1919, son of Alva and Agnes Kiser. He attended school at District #24 and high school at Archer, graduating in 1936.

Aunilee Brannan Kiser was born April 22, 1920, and attended school for all twelve years at Archer.

After marriage and living in Central City for two years, they moved back to the farm.

In February of 1945, they moved to the farm owned by her father, Loren Brannan. This had been owned by her grandfather before. It's been in the Brannan family since 1906, and the big house was built in 1910 by Charlie Huff. Later, Marvin and Aunilee bought this farm to carry on for the Brannan family.

Five children were raised by us: Jacqueline Kay Kiser Condon, now of Hastings; Richard LeRoy Kiser, now of Little Rock, Arkansas; Marlene Ione Kiser Split of Hastings; Gerald A. Kiser of Bark River, Michigan; and Lila Dynelle Kiser Bernth of

Grand Island, Nebraska.

All these children attended school at District 24, and high school in Central City, Nebraska. They all attended the Archer Methodist Church that their Mother attended for almost fifty years. The three girls were all married in this church.

Having three teenagers in high school at one time, our home was a meeting place. With a thirteen-room house, it was full many week-ends with friends of our kids.

With Robert and Mary Held living just three-fourths mile south with their six children about the same ages, we had some lively nights, with the children playing games at the kitchen table and we oldies playing cards in the dining room.

Oh! to have these eleven children all together in my home again would be a great joy!

All our children are married and scattered. One son, Senior Master Sargent Richard L. Kiser has made a career in the U.S. Air Force. Spending two years in England, two one year terms in Viet Nam, and three years his family and he were in Germany. For history in later years, while in Germany he took part in the attempt to rescue the hostages in Iran, Spring of 1980.

Marvin and Aunilee are grandparents of eleven extra-special boys and girls. *Submitted by Aunilee Brannan Kiser*

FRIEDA NIEDFELT KLENK

Frieda Sophia Minna Niedfelt Klenk was born February 8, 1896, at Grand Island to Diedrick J. and Ella Scherzberg Niedfelt. On August 14, 1916, she was married to Albert Heinrick Klenk, whose parents, Herman and Rose Elizabeth Winagale Klenk, were born in Germany. Albert Klenk was born July 12, 1894, in Ohio.

Frieda and Albert Klenk were the parents of two children. Albert Klenk, Jr., resides in Wood River, Nebraska. Roma Klenk was married to Howard E. VanBibber and later to Paul Moss.

Frieda Klenk passed away March 22, 1972. She is buried in Omaha. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

ARNOLD (JACK) KLINGENBERG

Arnold "Jack" Klingenberg, son of Arthur and Cozetta Kellogg Klingenberg, was born at Chapman, Nebraska, May 21, 1912. He attended School District 29 in Merrick County and graduated from Chapman High School in 1931. Jack and Gladys Kruse began married life June 25, 1932. His father was financially unable to retire from farming and for the same reason was unable to start Jack in farming. Jack worked in Grand Island for Ira Homar, Kinman Chevrolet, McGuire Ford Motor and Glades Service. He did his work well and with each job change there was an increase in pay and many of his customers followed him. Pay was meager but a loaf of bread was eight cents. In a nearby cafe a meal of baked heart and dressing cost 25 cents. That delicacy hasn't been to Jack's liking since. In 1933 the National Recovery Administration raised everyone's wages to $14.50 a week.



The far end of the Klingenberg home was the first section house of Chapman. Moved to present site and two story structure added in 1893.

A good friend, Emil Volkman, tended switch board at the Chapman Telephone Office. Caravans of automobiles were often driven from East to West instead of being shipped by rail. Emil would telephone Jack and say, "There is one coming." Jack would meet them and ask them to stop at his station for refueling and they always did. In 1939 Glades sent him to Central City to operate a service station they rented from Mrs. Clayton.

Later that year Petersen Baking Company of Omaha hired him as a driver, moved us to Columbus, and he served towns from Columbus to Central City to Fullerton, Belgrade, Cedar Rapids and Primrose and back again, serving each account twice a day. He tripled sales. Many friendships were formed. Each day in Cedar Rapids he was greeted at the first bread account by two of the towns elderly gentlemen, Skyles Robinson and Lee Batey, and was followed to the last stop. Mrs. Batey knitted mittens for our children. Merchants of Central City, Walt McHargue and Leonard Brown of Market Center, Jim Clark, Grant Ramage, Eoffs, Hummels, and Schneiderhienz were most helpful.

We came to the farm in 1942 which was homesteaded by Jack's grandfather, Hans Klingenberg, in 1871.

Our children are Mrs. Louis (Jane) Fienhold who attended Nebraska Central College and taught school in Merrick County. Her husband, Louis, served in Korea, attended Technical College in Kansas City and is employed by Bell Telephone of Grand Island. John graduated from the University of Nebraska and is in research for DeKalb Agriculture Association, Mrs. Leonard (Jean) Spiehs' husband is a farmer-stockman at Wood River. Mrs. John (Catherine) Fickes has a Master's Degree in Social Welfare and her husband, John, a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering, both from the University of Nebraska. We have nineteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Jack has served on many boards — Chapman Co-op Elevator, Merrick County Agricultural Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Union State Resolution Committee, Loan Committee of Chapman Co-operative Credit Association, District 29 School, Chapman Township, Chairman of Merrick County Democrats, Trustee of Merrick Foundation, Chapman Cemetery Association, Farmers Co-op Marketing Association of Kansas City, and later Farm-Mar-Co., Merrick County Supervisor for eight years, Greater Nebraska Health Systems Agency, State Health Co-ordinating Council and State Wide Mental Health. He is a member of the Liederkranz Society. *Submitted by Jack and Gladys Klingenberg*

KNAPP-DUGGER

John C. and Sarah E. Peck Knapp came to Nebraska in 1873 from Hinsdale, New York.

John was born in New York state in 1834. Sarah was born in Hinsdale, New York, in 1837.

After they were married, they moved to Iowa. Three of their children, Emma, Frank, and Fanny, were born in Iowa. John enlisted in the Army during the Civil War. He was captured by the South and held prisoner for nine months in Andersonville Prison. Sarah and the children moved back to New York during the war.

After the war they came to Nebraska, first to Lone Tree, and then to the Loup Valley in 1872, locating six miles northeast of Palmer. They lived there several years in a sod house.

In 1880, Sarah was appointed Postmaster in Merrick. The Post Office was located in the sod house in which they lived.

They moved a mile south to Section 36, which was school land that they purchased.

John was a government surveyor and was hired to lay out the town of Fullerton. He also taught school in several schools in Merrick County. One of these was District #31 in the Loup Valley. Later his daughter, Fanny, and his granddaughters, Rena and Evelyn Reece and Etta Belle Knapp also taught the same school. John and Sarah had three more children after the war. Their family and their spouses were: Emma and Norris Davis, Frank and Birdia Randall, Fanny and Frank Evans, Ward and Nora McMannis, Mina and Elmer Reece, Lewis and Belle Reece.



Knapp Family — Merrick Post Office

Glen, son of Milton and Alise Dugger, was born April 1916 in the southern part of Rock County, on his parent's homestead in the community of Sybrant. He served in the Navy all during World War Two.

Etta Belle Knapp was born north of O'Neill, in Holt County, December 1920. When my parents, Lewis and Belle Reece Knapp died in 1928, I came to Palmer to make my home with my Uncle and Aunt, Frank and Birdia Knapp.

Glen and I were married in March, 1945, and after the war was over we lived in Central City, where Glen worked in the Gamble and also in Ross and McIlnay stores.

In 1952, we moved to the Palmer community where we still reside, on a farm a mile north and three-fourths of a mile east of Palmer. Glen farmed and raised cattle, and I have taught in the Palmer Public School.

We have five children: Tom, who has spent fourteen years in the Army, is married to Connie Ball. Stephen lives in Hastings and is an electrician; his wife is Caralene Hall. Diedrich, who farms in the Palmer area; his wife is Marilyn Cernik. Helen Sue lives in Grand Island and is married to Harold Kaiser. William lives in Hastings and is an electrician.

Etta Belle Dugger, daughter of Lewis, submitted this. She is the only one of the family that still makes her home in Merrick County.

FRANK & BIRDIA KNAPP

Frank M. Knapp, was one of the early settlers in the Loup Valley, coming with his parents in 1872. He was born in Delhi, Iowa, October 29, 1857. During the Civil War his mother and three children moved back to New York State near her folks. After the war, the family came to Nebraska. He and Birdia Randall of Chapman were married on October 14, 1916.

Birdia was born in Budaha, Nebraska, June 2, 1882. She had taught in District #31, where he met her. They made a home for his mother until her death.

Frank was a farmer and raised Black Angus cattle. Birdia was one of the first in the community to raise white Leghorn chickens.

They were prominent in community affairs and they worked hard to get a high school added to District #31 and get the new school house. While they had no children they made a home for several young people, one was a niece Etta Belle Knapp Dugger, who submitted this. Frank died in 1937 and Birdia in 1960. *Submitted by Etta Belle Dugger*



William and Mildred Knight

WILLIAM & MILDRED KNIGHT

My father, William Knight, born September 28, 1884, at Raymond, Nebraska, was the fourth of five children of Benjamin Knight and Ruth Greene Knight, a direct descendant of Nathanial Greene, the Revolutionary War General. They had come from Indiana in the early 1870's. After graduation from Cotner High School and farming in hilly country, he shipped his threshing machine in 1907 to Chapman where he was attracted to the people and the flat Platte River Valley which he always called "God's Country".

He rented a farm belonging to Andrew and Angeline Neth Smith and married their only child, Mildred, October 29, 1912. She was born April 23, 1888 near Chapman, where she graduated from the Ten-grade High School and later, in 1910, from the Grand Island Baptist College and then taught two years in the Chapman School. They had three children: Andrew Benjamin, born June 4, 1914; myself, June 12, 1916 and William Roger, September 12, 1927.

They moved into Chapman in 1915 to help manage the Smith Store and into a modern home, for which he sawed with his sawmill the strong cottonwood frame as he did for a number of other homes in the community. Before combines became popular he had eight threshing machines operating. At the conclusion of the neighborhood "run" all gathered for an icecream and cake party.

They were members of the Baptist Church, and always worked for community projects. She helped to organize the Friendly Club, still active, about sixty years ago. She was an Eastern Star; he was a Mason, a Knight Templar, and a Shriner.

Dad was constantly inventing and putting together many early tractors and machines, which included the Chapman's first fire truck. Many of the early county roads were graded by him, using the large-wheeled Aultman-Taylor tractors which sometimes had to travel through the creek beds to avoid crushing the bridges. Later he did State Highway construction, starting with mules and wooden dump wagons, hiring WPA employees during the depression. The Knight Construction Company has been continued and expanded by Andrew (Bud) and Bill.

They were wonderful parents, teaching us the value of ambition, wanting a good life for us. I remember the trip to the East Coast camping out in a tent all the way, later the World's Fair in Chicago. Mother, a fine musician, gave us all a love for music. With much nostalgia I recall the homemade pies and breads, arising long before daylight to be on with the "program of the day", a Sabbath kept Holy, hospitality to their many friends, keeping country school boys and girls during bad weather.

My father died following a heart attack September 19, 1956. Mother remained active until her death in March 12, 1966. They are also survived by Dad's stepbrother Russell Knight, Fresno, California and ten grandchildren: Elizabeth Hodtwalker, John F. Vipperman, Andrea Kuhn, Joan Ford, Judy Andrews, Karen Groetzinger, Kathy Abood, Kirby Knight, Kevin Knight, Roger Knight and ten great-grandchildren.

They gave us and our children a great heritage — one of much industry coupled with love and faith. *Submitted by June Knight Vipperman*

WILLIAM & DOROTHY KNIGHT

William R. Knight was born on September 12, 1927 at Chapman, the third child of William and Mildred Smith Knight. He attended school in Chapman.

He was united in marriage to Dorothy Hughes from Grand Island, who was a graduate of St. Francis School of Nursing.

The home Bill was raised in and they continue to live in, was built by Bill's father in 1916. He operated a saw mill at that time. The lumber for their home and others in the community was cut and sawed by William B. Knight.

Later, he became interested in road construction, so Bill grew up in the business and continues with that today. He worked with his father for years, "skinning" before he was legally able to drive an automobile. In the early days of dirt moving, horse drawn dump wagons, pull type blade graders and elevating graders were used. They traveled over a large part of Nebraska engaging in village street building, townships and country and state road building. Over the years they have modified many pieces of equipment to suit their own special needs.

Bill has always loved music. Over the years the quartet of Fred Vipperman, Loren Ogden, Warren Hudnall and Bill has entertained many at social functions. He began playing for a dance band while in high school and in later years for Mel Pop's band. In 1966 he purchased Mel's band and continues to play for weddings, anniversaries and dances around the community.

Dorothy gave up her nursing career while their children were small and went back into nursing later. She is now working for Merrick County Health Department.

They are both active in the Baptist Church in Chapman. Bill sings in the choir and Dorothy teaches a Sunday School class. They are also active in Masons and Eastern Star.

They are the parents of seven children. Joan married to Mike Ford, two children Katie and Daniel, Denver, Colorado. Judy, Andrew, one child Tracy, Denver, Colorado. Karen married to Gary Groetzinger, three children, Kelly, Jesse and Sarah. Central City, Nebraska. Kathy Abood, Denver, Colorado. William Kirby, married to Stephanie Gillham, one child Mathew, Chapman. Kevin Ray, Grand Island. Roger James at home. *Submitted by Dorothy Knight*

FRED KOHL FAMILY

Fred Kohl was born in Germany and at the age of sixteen came to America with his brother, John.

Fred secured work in Chicago, Illinois and after a stay of two years in Chicago he moved to Iowa. He was engaged in farming for several years in Pottawattamie County. In 1889 he moved to Nebraska and located on a farm three miles east of Clarks.

Fred was united in marriage to Anna Elizabeth Amacher on April 10, 1904. Anna was a native of Switzerland and came to America at an early age to join her sister and brother.

Five children, Emma, Margaret, Walter, Mary and Anna, blessed this marriage.

Emma married Oscar Person and to them was born, Donald Dean and Mary Mae, of Columbus.

Margaret married Lawrence Peterson and they had two sons, Frederick of California, and Waldo Lee of Clarks. Waldo now manages the Clarks Lumber Co.

Anna married Bill Muller. They had two daughters, Rita Ann and Donna now living in California.

Walter married Pauline Cook and they live in Illinois.

Mary married Ed Arney in 1938. Ed grew up in St. Edward and came to Clarks in 1935. He worked with the Pollard Oil Company.

Mary and Ed purchased the farm from Mary's father in 1938, where they lived until Ed's death in 1970 and then the farm was sold. The farm was in the family for eighty-one years.

Ed also worked for the Merrick County ASC for several years. Ed was also given a special citation in 1969 for work done on the farm in the field of soil conservation.

The following members of this family are now deceased: Fred and Anna Kohl, their daughters, Emma, Margaret and Anna, also the sons-in-law — Oscar Person, Lawrence Peterson and Ed Arney. *Submitted by Mary Arney*

WILLIAM G. KOHL FAMILY

William G. Kohl, son of John Kohl, Sr. was born on February 8, 1882 at Minden, Iowa. William's parents came from Germany. They settled in Chicago, Illinois; for a short time, moving to Minden, Iowa. At the age of nine, William and his parents and sister moved to Columbus, Nebraska, where two more brothers were born.

The family then moved to Richland, Nebraska and resided on a ranch for five years before moving to Genoa, Nebraska. In 1894, the family moved to a farm northeast of Clarks, Nebraska, which is presently known as the W.H. Kohl Jr. farm.

On March 28, 1906 William Kohl Sr. married Katherine Hansen. The couple lived on the Kohl farm until 1943. They were the parents of eight



Fred and Anna Kohl — 1904



Mr. and Mrs. William G. Kohl — 1906

children, namely Arthur of Clarks; Martha (Darnall deceased); Bettie (Monson) of Clarks; Elsie (Grosch) of Silver Creek, Nebraska; Bessie (Peterson) of Clarks; William H. Kohl Jr. of Clarks; John F. Kohl Sr. of Clarks and Pauline Hemmer of St. Libory, Nebraska.

The year of 1926-27, Mr. Kohl with the help of four other farmers, incorporated the Farmers Union Gas and Oil Station, also the Produce Station in Clarks. He served on the board of directors for many years, attending the Farmers Union conventions at Omaha, Nebraska.

He was director of the school board District #7 for twenty-five years. He liked to fish. He and his wife loved garden work, flowers and fruit trees, which they had where ever they lived. Mr. Kohl successfully grafted trees that produced abundant fruit.

In March 1943, Mr. and Mrs. William G. Kohl, Arthur, John F. and Pauline moved into Clarks to the home then known as the William Schrawger residence, now known as the Fred Gerber home. The following year the family purchased the H.P. Hansen home, now known as the Bob Herman home.

Mr. and Mrs. William G. Kohl and Arthur later bought and moved to the home known as the George Dudney home. Mrs. William Kohl Sr. passed away in 1960 at the age of seventy-two years. William Sr. passed away in 1978 at the age of ninety-five years. Arthur still resides at this home. *Submitted by Bettie Monson*

WILLIAM KOHL SR. FAMILY

William H. Kohl was born northeast of Clarks on December 22, 1919. He attended District #7 School. On February 20, 1943, he married Barbara Josephine Wurtz at Beatrice, Nebraska. They lived on the Kohl farm until 1968. They were the parents of three children. Valinda married Hubert Klocek, and they live in Alden, Minnesota and have two children, Kent William and Robin Jo. William H., Jr., married Bonnie Fairbairn. Bill is in the Air Force. They have two sons, William Sean and Eric Robert. Arlyce lives at home. In February, 1968, Mr. and Mrs. Kohl and Arlyce moved into Clarks to what used to be the Congregational Parsonage.

Bill was on District #7 School Board, was leader of a gun, dairy and beef 4-H club for fourteen years, was president of the Merrick County 4-H Board for two years, served on the Extension Board, served twelve years on the Clarks Village Board, and was Mayor for several years.

Barbara is a Clarks High School graduate.

Mr. and Mrs. Kohl are members of the Congregational Church. *Submitted by Barbara Kohl*

GOLDIE KOHLHOF

Goldie Monson Kohlhof was born to Martin and Mable Monson December 27, 1920 on a farm near Clarks, Nebraska. Goldie had three brothers, George, Harold, and Merlin and two sisters, Erma and Bertha.

Goldie attended school near Clarks and graduated from the Clarks High School in 1938. After graduation she worked in the recreation hall in Clarks. Then she and her parents moved to Omaha where she worked in the Boomer Plant, telephone company, and the Safeway store.

Goldie married Leonard Kohlhof of Clarks in 1945. They were married in her parent's home, then she moved with her husband to Clarks, Nebraska, where she worked as a janitor in the Clarks school for twelve years.

Goldie and her husband were blessed with a daughter, Peggy, who lived only two years, then they adopted two children, Bill and Linda.

After her husband's death, Goldie moved to Badervilla in 1976. Later she moved to Bethesda Care Center where she now resides. *Submitted by Goldie Kohlhof*

NORMAN & JOYCE KORTE

Elaine Joyce Bremer Korte, oldest child of James and Ella Bremer was born July 16, 1937, and baptized in the Mire Valley Lutheran Church near her grandparents' Bremer's home and attended parochial school there until her family moved to Merrick County. She continued school at Worms and was confirmed in the class of twelve by Rev.



Mr. and Mrs. Norman Korte Family — 1980
Children — **L-r** — Jonathon, Lisa and Rita.

A.F. Otto in 1951.

A 1955 graduate of St. Paul High School where she took Normal teacher training classes, she then attended Concordia Teachers College at Seward. Her first school, where she taught for two years, was Immanuel Lutheran near Plymouth, Nebraska. This Christian day school was a one room school with twenty-one pupils in all eight grades. After another year of college she was called to St. Paul Lutheran School, Grafton, north of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as first grade teacher for thirty-five to forty children in one classroom. After three years there, she went back to Nebraska for one year, teaching sixth graders at Immanuel Lutheran in Columbus.

On September 22, 1962, she married Norman Lewis Korte and the couple made their home on the Korte homeplace northeast of Columbus. This farm has been in the Korte family nearly 100 years.

The couple has three children: Rita Joyce, seventeen, Lisa Renee fifteen, and Jonathan Norman, thirteen. Rita and Lisa attend Lakeview High School where Rita is in FHA, Vocational Agriculture classes and FFA, sings with a Girls Swing Choir group and plays on the varsity basketball team. Lisa enjoys playing trumpet in school band and in the state band group, and is on the varsity volleyball team. Jon attends Christ Lutheran Christian Day School.

As a family, they are active members of Christ Lutheran Church which is twelve miles northeast of Columbus.

Thanksgiving is a special time on the farm when crops of alfalfa, corn, soybeans, oats and wheat are harvested and there is feed again for the dairy herd, hogs, chickens and some turkeys. The family goes to church, then with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins enjoys a turkey dinner together. Usually almost everything on the table has been raised or grown in the garden, right down to the wheat ground into flour for dinner rolls!

As a road sign states: "Nebraska — The good life!" The family has many fond memories of Merrick County and now of Platte County. *Submitted by Elaine Korte*

JACK H. KORTUM FAMILY

Jack H. Kortum born March 15, 1916, and Margaret A. Kortum born November 14, 1919, were both born in Chapman, Nebraska.

Jack H. Kortum and Margaret A. Green were married April 24, 1944, in Grand Island, Nebraska.

They are the parents of two children, Jacqueline Ann Drummond and Ronald H. Kortum. Jacqueline, husband Duane and son Jason John live in Greenfield, Indiana. Ronald, wife Gloria Sager Kortum and children Sara Anne and Steven live in Grand Island, Nebraska. Ronald is an electrician. He served four years in the Navy during the Vietnam War. Duane served three years in the Army during the Vietnam War.

Jack was in World War II and served in the South Pacific. He entered the service September 4, 1941, and was discharged October 4, 1945.

In 1961, after the death of his father in 1959, he purchased the Henry Kortum farm. The farm will have been in the Kortum family for 100 years in 1985.

In 1969 Jack and Margaret celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary, along with Margaret's parents, George and Anna Green who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

They are members of the Chapman Methodist Church. Jack is a member of Friendship Lodge No. 239 AF and AM, and a twenty-three year member of the American Legion, Lone Tree, Post No. 6. Margaret is a member of Laura May Chapter No. 251 and a past Matron. She also served for eleven years on the District #3 school board.

We are proud to live in Merrick County and be a part of the community. *Submitted by Margaret A. Kortum*



Mr. and Mrs. Jack H. Kortum

LAWRENCE NICHOLAS KRANCE

Lawrence Nicholas Krance was born September 11, 1911, on a farm near Farwell, Nebraska. He was the son of Sylvester J. Krance and Katie Jance Krance. They homesteaded in Howard County near Farwell in 1894.

Mae Anista Kowalewski Krance was born May 2, 1912, the daughter of Rupert and Mary Kaslon Kowalewski. They were married in 1934 in the Catholic Church of Ashton, Nebraska. The couple have four children.



Lawrence and Mae Krance

Elaine Marie, born September 21, 1936, married Fred Boelts in 1955 and the couple had three children: Roger, Jeanie, and Kay.

Lawrence Sylvester, born November 29, 1937, married Bernadine Moraczewski, in 1958. They had seven children: Barbara, Lisa, Cindy, Chuck, Amy, Jill, and Carla.

Richard Rupert, born November 29, 1940, married Patty Kay Wall June 13, 1962. They have three children: Jodie, Jackie, and Lorinda.

Karen Mae, born August 23, 1943, married Walter Wall in 1963. Their children are Nichole and Leah. They live in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Lawrence and Mae farmed near Farwell until 1948. They then moved to Merrick County where he worked as a farm hand until 1954 when he became a mechanic. He made his living in this manner through 1956, when the couple bought Gagle's Corner, changing the name to Krance Corner. Lawrence and Mae retired in 1977 from this operation and moved to a farm six and a half miles north of Central City where they now reside. *Submitted by Richard R. Krance*

RICHARD & PATTY KRANCE

Richard Rupert Krance, son of Lawrence N. and Mae Kowalewski Krance, was born November 29, 1940, in Loup City, Nebraska. The family was farming near Farwell at that time. He went to school in Central City, graduating in 1959.

On June 13, 1962, he married Patty Kay Wall, daughter of Harold and Elva Estilla Klawonn Wall. The ceremony was held in Grace Lutheran Church in Central City, and was performed by Pastor Jerald Leaf.

Patty Kay was born April 2, 1944, on a farm near Hampton, Nebraska. She attended Zion Lutheran Church near Hampton. Following her marriage she transferred to Grace Lutheran Church in Central City.



Richard Krance Family

The couple first lived in Central City for five years while Dick worked for Grosshans as a mechanic. They moved to Minden for two years then to Seward for one and one-half years, Dick working as a mechanic. In 1969, the family returned to Central City and Dick began farming with his brother, Larry. They moved to a farm in Section 16, Range 7, Township 13, where they now live. The couple has three girls.

Jodie Judean, born June 12, 1963, and graduated from Central City High School in 1981. She was in 4-H for ten years, and a cheerleader for three years. She is Merrick County Pork Queen for 1981.

Jackie Sue, born July 29, 1964, will graduate from Central City High School in 1982. She has been in 4-H for nine years and her hobby is crocheting.

Lorinda Lou, born April 1, 1970, has been in 4-H for three years and her hobby is cats.

The family attends Grace Lutheran Church in Central City. Dick has served on Church Council and Pat is Mary Unit Leader at Grace. Dick is currently on Prairie Creek Township Board and serves as clerk. Pat belongs to Prairie Creek Improvement Extension Club. She and Merleen Paulsen were the originators of Futurettes 4-H Club to which all their daughters belonged. Bob Fuelberth, Larry Brown, and Dick Krance started the Central Tractor 4-H Club in 1974 and still serve as leaders. *Submitted by Richard R. Krance*

ANDREW AND MARIE KRUG

Andrew Krug was born June 16, 1911 at Phillipsburg, Kansas, the son of John and Minnie Krug. They lived on a farm his father owned and the Krug children attended school in a rock schoolhouse. The windows were deep and they recall sitting in the windows to eat their lunch. John Krug passed away in September, 1919.

They continued to live in Kansas until their mother remarried and the family moved to the District #50 area. They also lived on Prairie Island until Andrew and Marie, daughter of John and Marie Lewis, were married February 17, 1934, and moved to Central City.

Andrew worked for several farmers in the area until 1935 when he began working for the Union Pacific Railroad as a Section Hand. On December 18, 1943 he was inducted into World War II and received his Basic Army training at Tyler, Texas. He was sent overseas in August, 1944 and served in England and France. He received shrapnel wounds in the colon while in combat in the European Theater near Rehms, France with Co. #23, Hq. 135th GH. He was awarded the Purple Heart October 29, 1944 and after partial recovery in a field hospital was sent back to Topeka, Kansas here he underwent major surgery and was honorably discharged January 13, 1945. He was awarded two Bronze Medals and the Good Conduct Ribbon.

Andrew and Marie worked at the Ordnance Plant until March, 1946 when he began farming for himself in the Chapman community. He had a farm sale in 1967 and worked at carpenter construction until he retired. Andrew is never idle and enjoys woodworking and gardening.

Marie graduated from Central City High School in 1933. She worked as secretary for the Omaha Cold Storage until it closed and in 1956 enrolled in the Grand Island School of Beauty. She owned and operated a beauty salon in Chapman until she was stricken with cancer. Marie will be remembered for her friendliness and her talent for giving humorous readings and her quilting abilities. She was a member of the Chapman Methodist Church, Royal Neighbors, Pythian Sisters and Rebeccah's and was Noble Grand in 1976. She endured her suffering bravely having several major surgeries before she passed away June 14, 1977 and was buried at Central City.

Andrew and Marie had two children. Donna Lee who graduated from Central City High School in 1958 then attended Wesleyan University in Lincoln where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration in 1962. She married Larry Mallery and now lives in San Jose, California. Donna works as a secretary and continued her education and Larry is a Chemical Engineer for Sylvania. They have one daughter, Teresa Marie, in High School.

Carolyn Kay graduated from Central City High School in 1960. She worked at Stover Candy Company in Lincoln until she married Ray Smith. She has two children: Carla, who married Scott Dominic and Edward Smith, a junior in high school. She has two grandchildren, Crystal and Scott Dominic. She now lives and works in Grand Island. *Submitted by Lillian Krug*

ROBERT & LILLIAN KRUG

Robert Krug, son of John and Minnie Krug, was born at Phillipsburg, Kansas. His father died when he was three years old but the family managed their farm there until 1927 when they moved to the District #50 Community. His mother, then Minnie Webb, and two sisters, Mary and Sevila Webb, lived on Prairie Island and Central City before moving to the farm on which Robert still lives in 1939.

Robert married Lillian Lewis, daughter of John and Marie Lewis, November 8, 1941. His mother and teenage sisters moved to Central City and his bride moved to the farm where he worked as a farm hand for Floyd Tyler. A fire in 1945 destroyed their home and a new house was built. Robert began farming for himself in 1945 with a team of horses and F-12 tractor. They bought the Hanson Holmes farm near Chapman in 1960 which he still farms along with two Tyler farms. He is a diversified farmer and stockman and has dug thousands of cedar trees and has sold them in Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas for shelterbelts.



Robert Krug Family

Robert was Secretary of District #3 School Board for nine years, Charter Member of the Lone Tree Rodeo Association, member of the Platte Valley Wranglers, Farm Bureau, Knights of Pythias, and attends the Chapman Baptist Church. Since he only received an eighth grade education, he set a goal in his life to see his children graduate from college and that has now been achieved.

Lillian graduated in 1937 from Central City High School and was a secretary before her marriage. She was a 4-H Leader for twenty-eight years leading clubs in which her children and two grandchildren were members. The projects ranged from sewing, cooking and home living to swine, beef and horses. She's a member of Chapman Baptist Church, Royal Neighbors, Rebeccah's, Live and Learn Club, and presently Vice-President of Church Women United.

All four of the Krug children attended District #3 and graduated from Central City High School. Beverly graduated from Mary Lanning School of Nursing in Hastings in 1964 as an RN, where she was a head nurse for twelve years. She moved to Central City in 1976 with her two sons, Rodney and Randy Graham and worked as Public Health Nurse for Merrick County. She married James Beetem November 1, 1979 and moved to Perham, Minnesota where Jim has business interests.

Marcia graduated from Kearney State College in 1968 with a degree in Mathematics. She married Ronald Vergo, son of John and Nell Vergo in 1968. She has taught mathematics in Beatrice, St. Paul, Minnesota, and with the military in Frankfurt, Germany. They now live in Westminster, Colorado where Ron is Engineer for STC Communications. They have one son, Marc Anthony.

Norman graduated from UNL in 1978 with a degree in Vocational Agriculture. He was active in FFA serving as State Chairman and received State Farmer and American Farmer degrees. He married Sue VanPelt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dewayne VanPelt. They have a daughter, Andrea Marie. Norman farms near Chapman.

Sandra received a B.S. degree from UNL in 1979 in Food and Nutrition and will receive her Master's degree this year in Human Nutrition and Food Service Management.

We have all enjoyed living close to the Platte River and many others have enjoyed a picnic, hike, hayrack ride, or trail ride here with us. The children and grandchildren look forward to a vacation on the farm. *Submitted by Lillian Krug*

FRIEDRICH & CHRISTINA KUCK

Friedrich J. Hermann Kuck came to America from Oltenburg, Germany, in 1883. At twenty-four years of age, and yet a single man, he bought forty acres of land three and a half miles north and three miles east of the little community of Worms, Nebraska. In 1885 he married Christina Meinardis, who had been an acquaintance of his in the old country. She had also emigrated with her family to the United States. In 1888 they purchased another 160 acres across the road where they built a home and raised two children: Gretchen (Wilshusen), born in 1886, and Hermann Christoph, born in 1888.

Travel in those years was by horse and buggy. Fred was the proud owner of a team of Hamiltons, horses rated as one of the better teams in the area as far as speed was concerned. A jouney to Grand Island took approximately one hour and thirty minutes, a distance of about twenty-two miles. No doubt the team belonging to his father was a favorite conveyance for courting when Herman reached that age. Fred and Christina bought their first car around 1912, which was used only on special occasions. One of their earliest cars was an Auburn, he later bought Buicks and Chevys. The cars were kept for special occasions as Fred was very particular about them. Then too, no one was a particularly good driver when cars were first being manufactured.

Gretchen married William Wilshusen in 1910, and moved a short distance away. Following Her-



Fred and Christina Kuck Family — 1912

man's marriage in 1915, Fred and Christina gave the newlyweds their old house and they built a new one for themselves on the northeast corner of the intersection, catty-cornered from their old house. They retired from farming, turning the day to day operation over to Herman and his wife, Katie. Fred passed away May 8, 1940, and Christina passed away October 1, 1946. They were members of the congregation at Zion Lutheran in Worms and are buried in Zion's cemetery.

After the deaths of Fred and Christina, the home they built was purchased by Karl Kurz and moved three miles west. A grandson of Karl, Bill Kurz and his family now live in the house. *Submitted by Mrs. Harold Kuck*

HAROLD & ROSE KUCK

Harold Herman was born October 12, 1925, to Herman C. and Katie Michaelson Kuck. He grew up on the family farm three and a half miles north and three miles east of Worms. He attended parochial school at Worms. Since Harold was youngest, he helped his father with farming until his folks retired and moved to Grand Island. Harold was in the Navy for a short time in 1945.

Harold was married June 12, 1949, to Rose Aurora Ehn, daughter of the Emil Ehns of Polk, Nebraska. She was one of nine children. Rose lost her mother at the age of four, but her father kept the family of five girls and four boys together. At the time Harold and Rose met, she was working as a telephone operator in Grand Island. Their wedding day was a memorable one: they were married at the Lutheran Church in Central City at 2:00 P.M. and it had been a wet spring after the big snow storms of 1948-49. Many roads were out in the area. A shivaree was held in the evening at the Kuck farm, and the only road passable to get there wasn't the greatest of roads to travel. It did not, however, seem to dampen the spirits of the many who attended.

Harold's parents moved to Grand Island, and Harold and Rose took over the farming operation and moved on to the home place to live.



Harold Kuck Family — **L-r** — Steven, Debra, Harold, Rose, Donald and Gerald.

In January 1951, the couple was anxiously looking forward to their first child. They were very saddened when their son lived only a short while. The Lord was very good to them, however, and a year and a half later they were blessed with another son, Steven. Two years later their son Donald was born, and two years after that, Gerald.

Harold worked at different jobs in addition to farming: first at Kansas-Nebraska Gas Company, then the sugar beet factory in Grand Island, and most recently at the American Maize Company in Central City.

In 1961 the couple was blessed with a daughter Debra, who has been such a joy to them. Steven and Donald attended school at District #28 until Donald entered first grade. They were then sent to parochial school at Worms. The children all had a lot of fun growing up on the farm and were involved in 4-H throughout the years. Steven exhibited one of the first Charolis steers at the Merrick County Fair and received a Reserve Champion Award for it. The boys were also involved in FFA during high school in Central City along with many other activities.

After graduation Steven attended Hastings Central Tech. He also was one of the last to be drafted before the draft ceased, and spent two years in the Army. He and Karen Larsen were married in 1971, and had two sons, Joshua and Jason.

Donald graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a degree in Business Adminstration. He presently lives in Phoenix, Arizona, and works for Peter Kiewitt Company.

Gerald attended Kearney State College. He and Steven both work at Sperry-New Holland in Grand Island. Gerald married Kathy Beck of Central City and Steven is now married to Virginia DeLeon of Grand Island. Both live in Central City.

Debra attends Lincoln School of Commerce and will graduate in 1981 with a degree in accounting.

Harold and Rose live on the farm close to Worms. Many changes have taken place in the farming operation over the years, but the big house and barn still remain. They hold many memories and hopefully the future generations will be able to keep the land if they so desire. Rose is a member of Cheerie Center Club. *Submitted by Mrs. Harold Kuck*

HERMAN & KATIE KUCK

Hermann Christoph Kuck was born December 3, 1888 to Friedrich J.H. and Christina Meinardus Kuck. He was raised on the Kuck Farm, three and a half miles north and three miles east of Worms, and attended parochial school at Zion Lutheran in Worms. As a young man he farmed with his father and played coronet in the Worms band. He also played violin.

Folkea (Katie) Gretina, daughter of Peter Isiach and Anna Becher Michaelson of Platte Center, Nebraska, was born December 4, 1894. She was one of twelve children.

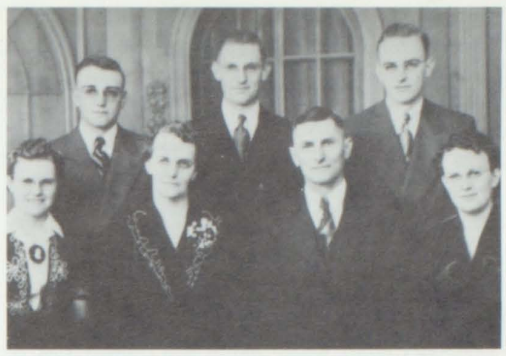
Herman and Katie were married April 12, 1915. Shortly after their marriage they moved into the home of his parents, while Fred and Christina built a new home across the road. Herman purchased a new car, a Buick, in 1917. What a luxury after using horse and buggy for all transportation!

Their union was blessed with five children: Lawrence, Eric, Agnes, Annetta, and Harold. The children all attended Lutheran parochial school at Worms where the family attended religious services.

In 1928, a new house was built on the 160 acres where Herman and Katie lived, and the old one torn down. A garage was also erected, as well as a very large barn. Many neighborhood barn dances were held in the barn for entertainment. Annetta can remember helping her mother and sister make the many pies and cakes sold at the dances for refreshments.

Lawrence married Minnie Hansen, Grand Island. He worked for the Railway Express and she worked for Schweser's in Grand Island until their retirement. They live in Grand Island; their children Larry and Jan (Becker) and her family live in California.

Eric married Edna Peters and Agnes married Harold Scheer in a double wedding ceremony at Zion Lutheran in 1939. Eric and Edna farm south and east of St. Libory. Daughter Marlene (Seim)



Herman Kuck Family — **Back l-r** — Harold, Eric, Lawrence, Agnes, Katie, Herman, Annetta.

lives in Omaha, daughter Sandy (Nielsen) and son Danny and their families live near Eric and Edna. Agnes passed away in 1960; she and Harold had farmed two miles east of Worms. Their son Ronnie and his family live in Pennsylvania.

Annetta married Norman Bosselman and they farmed east of Worms until their retirement in 1980. They have a son Curtis who is married and lives on the farm.

Harold married Rose Ehn and lives on the Kuck Family Farm. Their sons Steven and Gerald live with their families in Central City. Donald lives in Arizona, and Debra attends college in Lincoln.

Herman and Katie retired to Grand Island in 1949. Herman passed away in 1975. Katie continued to live alone in their home until poor health forced her to move to Litzenberg Extended Care in Central City, where she passed away March 25, 1980. Both are buried in Worms.



Baptismal dress and petticoat of Kuck Family

Of special interest: all Herman and Katie's children and grand-children were baptized in the same dress made by Katie in 1916. It has even been used by the third generation: to date twenty-five children have been baptized in the dress. *Submitted by Mrs. Harold Kuck*

PHILIP & DAPHNE KUFELDT

Philip Kufeldt was born December 22, 1927, at Gering, Nebraska. His father, Philip John Kufeldt, was born October 4, 1876, at Rosendam, Russia. His mother, Rosina Maria (Schmidt) was born August 24, 1883, at Templehoff, Russia. They were German-Russians who immigrated to the U.S. in 1917 and settled in the Lexington area. Philip spent his childhood in the Lexington and Scottsbluff-Gering areas.

Daphne Pauline Peck was born August 17, 1931, at Maxwell, Nebraska. Her father, Charley Irvin Peck, was born January 11, 1904, at Royal, Illinois. Her mother, Nellie Pauline (Bullis), was born April 30, 1910, at Gothenburg, Nebraska. The family lived for a time in Illinois, but for the most part lived in the Dawson County area of Nebraska. Charley

and his family were residents of the Fairview Church community for several years. Charley passed away in 1980, Nellie in 1966.

Philip served with the U.S. Merchant Marine World War II, entering when he was sixteen. He saw duty aboard merchant vessels in the Pacific theater.

Philip and Daphne were married June 9, 1948, at Gothenburg. After a stint at mining in Colorado, they returned to the Gothenburg area where Philip was foreman of the "96" and Kittenbrink ranches. Part of the house in which they lived while at the "96" was an original Pony Express station which had been added onto. In 1958 they moved to Merrick County where Philip also farmed. One of the crops which he raised was sugar beets, an uncommon crop in this area. In 1964 the family moved to Clarks where they resided for several years before moving to their present home east of Central City.

Philip has been involved in a trucking and custom work business since 1964. Earlier this year, he and his two sons formed a partnership and bought a cob grinding business in Kearney. The business is known as Triple K Supply.

Daphne has been involved in Cub Scouts, church activities, 4-H, camp crafts counselor and other community activities. She has been a teacher's aide, working with mentally and physically handicapped children for a number of years. She received the AK-SAR-BEN Good Neighbor award in 1978 for her work with mentally and physically handicapped persons and the ARC and YARC associations. She is presently employed by the Grand Island school system.

Philip and Daphne have three children, Alex John, Philip Ray and Patricia Kay. All the children were born on Gothenburg and all graduated from Clarks High School. Alex married Susan Kay Peterson of Stromsburg in 1970. They have two daughters, Brittany and Wendy, and reside near Clarks. Susan is a registered nurse and is employed at the St. Francis Medical Center in Grand Island. Philip is single and resides in Clarks. Both sons are Vietnam-era veterans, Philip serving with the U.S. Army and Alex, the Navy. Both are now in business with their father. Pat married William Francis Bolte of Lawrence in 1970. They have two sons, William and Patrick. Bill works for the Southern Power District. Pat is employed at the Central City Republican Nonpareil. They have a home in Riverside. *Submitted by Alex J. Kufeldt*

CHARLES KUHLMAN FAMILY

Charles D. Kuhlman, son of William and Caroline Beman Kuhlman, was born August 30, 1894, at the family home southwest of Chapman, Nebraska. He grew to manhood in this community and after completing his education engaged in farming with his father.

On June 22, 1921, Charles and Ann Willman were united in marriage at the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grand Island, Nebraska. They continued farming in the Chapman area until 1929 when they moved to Clarks with their family, a son, Norman and a daughter, Marilyn. The years that lay ahead were to test the mettle of Charles and others of his generation for it was to take real faith and dedication for these men of the soil to endure and prosper.

The Kuhlmans were strong supporters of the best education for all young people and Charles served on the District 25 school board for many years. Son Norman completed college after serving in the Pacific area during World War II and has a farm management service at Rock Rapids, Iowa. Daughter Marilyn, Mrs. Jack Wilson, is a homemaker and enthusiastic 4-H leader having returned to the farm after attending UN-L and being on the Nutrition Research staff there.

Charles and Ann retired from farming in 1963 and moved to Central City where their ability to work with nature, as evidenced by their yard and garden has been a joy to many.

Charles died December 1, 1973, but Ann has maintained a floral masterpiece surrounding her home in Central City, and enjoys sharing arrangements with residents of the rest homes, the congregation of the C.C. United Methodist Church and many others. *Submitted by Marilyn Wilson*

WILLIAM KUHLMAN FAMILY

William Kuhlman, Merrick County farmer and stockman, was a native of Davenport, Iowa, born June 5, 1860, to Wilhelm and Wilhemina Herring Kuhlmann, who had immigrated from Menden, Westphalia, Germany prior to 1855. The family remained in Iowa until 1876 when they came by wagon to Merrick County. The family — parents, four sons and three daughters, Louise, Caroline, William, Amelia, Henry, Charles and Frederick and sons-in-law August and Fritz Beberniss settled southwest of Chapman, in Vieregg township.

The Kuhlmann's were diligent in their endeavors and the two younger sons were among early graduates of the University of Nebraska and distinguished themselves with achievements in history and psychology respectively. William and Henry chose to remain farmers and were equally successful.



William and Caroline Kuhlman

William and Caroline Beman, daughter of Abram P. and Esther Lamb Beman, were married February 9, 1891, at her parents' home — the present site of the First National Bank of Grand Island. They made their home in section 25-12-8 and lived there for fifty-eight years. Four children grew to adulthood in this home — Hazel, Mrs. Fred Garbers; Charles D.; Wilhemina, Mrs. Alfred Smith; and Alfred T. The children attended District 2 school and worked beside their parents gaining skills that would enable them throughout their years.

"Will" took pride in his Hereford cattle and Poland China hogs and had a love for the prairie that bloomed between the Platte and Wood Rivers.

He died March 31, 1949 and "Carrie" December 18th the same year. *Submitted by Marilyn Wilson*

GEORGE KUHN FAMILY

George was born July 25, 1905, to Harvey and Minnie Jeanette Gagle Kuhn in Jamestown, Kansas. They moved to Merrick County when he was a small boy. On February 18, 1921, he married Bertha Mae Leeson at Fullerton, Nebraska.

Bertha was born January 1, 1903, to Harvey Victor and Hattie Hathaway Lesson in Hawley, Minnesota. At the age of two, she moved with her family to Merrick County where she attended Burke Rural School.

They farmed until 1945. Then they moved to Central City, where they joined George's brother, Leonard, in the produce business for several years. Then they bought the Riteway Bowling Alley which they operated until they moved to Union Gap, Washington, in 1960.

After their move to Union Gap, George went to work in the fruit orchards where he became foreman. Bertha went to work in a nursing home where she was a cook.

Bertha belonged to Fairview Methodist Church. George was affiliated with the Eagles Aerie in



Mr. and Mrs. George Kuhn

Yakima, Washington. He belonged to the Eagles Senior Citizens Bowling League in Yakima. He also belonged to the Central City Knights of Pythias.

They were the parents of seven children, five daughters and two sons: Mrs. Harold (Edith) Phelps of Langley, Washington; Mrs. Max L. (Doris) Miller of Yakima, Washington; Harvey; Mrs. Raymond (Marjorie) Heule; and Mrs. Howard (Ila Mae) Lovejoy, all of Central City. One daughter, Mrs. Arthur (Verna Lee) Bartlett, passed away January 30, 1968. One son, Gerald, passed away August 13, 1975. They had twenty-six grandchildren of which three are deceased. They have forty-one great- grandchildren, and seventeen step great-grandchildren.

Bertha retired in 1975. In 1976, Bertha broke her hip, so George retired to care for her. George took care of her until her death on February 17, 1979. George passed away August 26, 1980. They are both buried in the Burke Cemetery. *Submitted by Marjorie Heule*

HARVEY W. KUHN FAMILY

Harvey William Kuhn was born in Illinois and had two brothers, Charles and Tom, and two sisters, Josephine Kuhn Durand and Elizabeth Kuhn Rose. His brothers and sisters lived in the Albion and Neligh, Nebraska area.

Harvey was united in marriage to Minnie Jeanette Gagle and they lived in Kansas and at Weeping Water, Nebraska moving to Merrick County around 1904. Harvey returned to Kansas to work on the railroad and help with threshing the first year or two. In letters written to his wife, Minnie, he was always admonishing her to write telling how many letters he had written her but never receiving any in reply.

To the union of Harvey Kuhn and Minnie Gagle eight children were born. Harold and Cecil died in early life and the others were: Leonard, who married Nellie Moore and they were the parents of Leon, Eva, Pearl, Archie, Luella, Mary, and Roy; Lester Kuhn married Eva Smith, and they were the parents of one son who passed away and two daughters, Dorothy and Joan; George Kuhn married Bertha Leeson and their children were Edith, Harvey, Margie, Gerald, Ila Mae, Verna, and Doris. The only daughter of Harvey and Minnie was Ruth who married Glen Smith, and they had one son, Robert. Lawrence Kuhn married Violet Eckles to whom were born William, Larry, and Tom, and a daughter, Kay, who died in infancy. After the death of Violet in 1962, Lawrence married Lillian Zegar Sutko. The youngest child of Harvey and Minnie was Casey who married Lula May Lambert and they had two daughters, Nancy and Judy.

Harvey and Minnie as well as some of their descendants are buried in Burke Cemetery north of Central City. *Submitted by William Kuhn*

LARRY KUHN FAMILY

Larry Kuhn and Geraldine Jilg were married May 4, 1955, at St. Peters Church, Clarks, Nebraska. To this marriage were born five children: Russell of Columbus, married to Mary Sue Wendt, July 2,

1978; Ann, now Mrs. Elton King, married April 2, 1978; Mary Jo; Rex; and Ryan. They have three grandsons: Jeffrey Lawrence Kuhn of Columbus; Matt King, of Central City; and Keith Heim of Hastings.

Larry and Gerry farmed on the Glen Thomas place from 1955-1960 and Larry now has his own business, the Kuhn Insurance Agency in Clarks. Gerry was school secretary for the Clarks school from 1965 to 1977 and has worked part-time at the Kuhn Insurance Agency and the Clarks Telephone Company and is presently attending business classes at Platte College in Columbus, Nebraska.

On March 1, 1964, Larry D. Kuhn started the Kuhn Insurance Agency in Clarks, Nebraska. The first three years was primarily crop-hail business.

On March 1, 1966, Larry received his license to sell life insurance. At that time his business was run mostly out of his home.

In 1972, Larry rented an office room at the Strobel Industries building where his wife Gerry helped. He then started up with the casualty business.

In 1975, Kuhn Insurance Agency grew to the point where it needed and hired a full time secretary, Linda Dittmer.

In 1978, business was still growing and we grew out of the little office. Larry then purchased the building known as "Jim's Barber Shop" on the main street of Clarks. It was all remodeled and made into two offices.

The Kuhn Insurance Agency today is presently serving many counties in Nebraska with life and health, crop hail, automobiles and other forms of insurance.

Larry has been active in umpiring summer baseball and in 1980 was awarded the "Umpire of the Year" award.

In the spring of 1969 the Larry Kuhn family purchased the former house of Dr. Douglas on West Amity and have just recently remodeled the house.

Russ is manager of the Nebraskaland Glass of Columbus and Mary Sue assists him with bookwork. Elton farms near Central City and Ann has received her LPN from Platte College in Columbus. Mary and Keith live in Hastings where she finished as a Medical Assistant at Hasting Technical College and is presently employed for the Family Practice Clinic in Hastings. Rex was married to Lesa Masonbrink of Humboldt on February 13, 1981, and works for Dividend Bonded Gas in Lincoln and Lesa works at the bank. Ryan is presently finishing his junior year in high school with achievements in drama, speech, football, basketball, FFA, track, and Honor Roll. *Larry and Gerry Kuhn*

LESTER & EVA KUHN

Eva Smith Kuhn was born to Orley and Ida Miller Smith December 6, 1901 on the west edge of Central City on what we call the Comstock place. Eva was one of ten living children. Two babies died at birth. Eva attended school in Central City until 1914 when they moved to the Ogallala ranch and she attended District 56. She went into Central City for her ninth and tenth grade schooling.

Lester Kuhn was born January 10, 1898 on the Gagle homestead and was one of nine children. His father was W.H. Kuhn who was born March 26, 1870 and his mother was Minnie Gagle Kuhn born July 6, 1874. Lester received his schooling in the Gardner school and District 18.

Eva Smith and Lester Kuhn were married July 23, 1921, in Grand Island. They farmed one mile north of the Ogallala ranch for eight years then moved west of Central City to a farm they called the Stoger 80. They sold out in 1930 and moved to North Platte and after two years they moved back near Central City and in 1950 moved to Central City where they still make their home. They knew many hardships during the depression. They never had running water or electricity until they moved into Central City in 1950.

Eva and Lester had three children: Donald Edward born August 19, 1930 and died at birth; Dorothy Jean born August 19, 1930; and Joan Annette born October 16, 1935. The Kuhn's also have six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Lester died June 23, 1980.

Eva's sister and brothers were: Grace born September 30, 1899; a baby born in 1900 and died at birth; then Eva born December 6, 1901; Glenn Milburn born September 23, 1903; a baby born May 4, 1906 and died the same day; Viola Irene born February 8, 1908; Leo Sylvester born August 13, 1914; and twins, Lloyd Marion and Lloyd Raymond born October 23, 1916; Leonard Winfred born May 26, 1919; Wilma Marie born September 11, 1921; and Hazel Eleen born December 28, 1923.

Lester's sisters and brothers were: Leonard born April 27, 1892; Baby born January 30, 1896; Lester born January 10, 1898; Harold born April 3, 1900 and died July 13, 1902; Cecil born December 21, 1902 and died March 26, 1903; George born July 25, 1904; Lawrence born March 12, 1910; Ruth born January 12, 1909; and Casey born March 23, 1913. *Submitted by Eva Smith Kuhn*

WILLIAM H. KUHN FAMILY

A farm two and one-quarter miles northwest of Clarks is the home of William Harold and Joyce Nadine Hunscote Kuhn. Bill was born October 8, 1928, on a farm northwest of Central City, the eldest child of Lawrence and Violet Eckles Kuhn. Joyce was born June 7, 1929, the only child of Edward and Mildred Turner Hunscote.



William Kuhn Family
Back l-r — Kurt, Kyle, Reg. **Front** — Bill, Kay, Joyce.

Bill started school at District #18, attended Pleasant Hill School, and graduated from Clarks High in 1947. Upon graduation, he worked for Kewitt Construction and attended the University of Nebraska two years, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity. He became manager of the Farmers Union Cream Station in Clarks, and entered the Navy in 1950. During his term of service, Bill served in San Diego, Japan, and The Philippines, working in Personnel. He received his discharge in 1954, and the Kuhns returned to Clarks and started farming.

Joyce attended the Clarks Schools, graduating in 1947. She attended Doane College one year and graduated with honors from the University of Nebraska in 1951. She was a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, Pi Lambda Theta, and Chi Omega Sorority. She taught at Hebron, Nebraska High for two years. She became Mrs. William Kuhn on a 104 degree August 30, 1953, at the Congregational Church in Clarks.

The Kuhns lived in San Diego one year, and Joyce worked at the San Diego Public Library. Upon returning to Clarks, she taught in Central City Junior High for three years. Bill has served on County ASC Committee, Draft Board, Director of Clarks Developmental Corporation, old Farmers Union Board, Masonic Lodge, and director of Lone Tree Medical Association. He is beginning his fifteenth year on Clarks School Board, is a Trustee of Congregational Church, and Vice-President of Litzenberg Hospital Board. Joyce teaches Sunday School and Bible School, is a member of Child Evangelism County Committee, has taught Good News Club, is a member of Eastern Star, has been Missionary Secretary of Congregational Church, and is now Clerk. The Kuhns have received the AK-SAR-BEN Good Neighbor Award. Their children are all active in school and church activities.

Reginald Scott Kuhn was born February 4, 1959, and is a Senior Accounting major at UNL where he has been awarded the Regents, David, Nebraska Society of CPA's, Clarence H. Ross, H.E. Miller, O.N. Magee, and C.O. Johnson Scholarships. He is a member of Beta Alpha Psi, Beta Gamma Sigma, Alpha Lambda Delta, and Phi Eta Sigma honorary groups, and has received the Clifford Hicks and William Gold Scholarship Keys.

Kurt Hunscote Kuhn was born August 22, 1960, and is a Junior Agriculture Education major at UNL, where he received the Luther Drake Scholarship.

Kyle William Kuhn was born August 4, 1963, and is a student at Clarks High, and Kay Lynn Kuhn was born November 10, 1968, and attends school in Clarks. *Submitted by Joyce N. Kuhn*

ELSMER KUSKIE FAMILY

Elsmer was married to Daisy Evelyn Zichek, daughter of Ed and Agnes Zichek, who moved to rural Merrick County from Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1926. Daisy and Eslmer started their wedded life on the Jim Barge farm one mile north and two miles west of Central City. They lived here for three years at which time they moved one mile east to the Osborn farm. To them were born two children, a daughter, Evelyn LaVerne, and a son, Larry Dale. In due time Elsmer and Daisy built a new home on the farm and developed it into one of Merrick County's most progressive farms. In 1976 Elsmer was awarded a Master Farmer Award.

Evelyn was married to Robert Herbig of Hamilton County and Elsmer is now in partnership with his son-in-law.

From the farm home Daisy operates quite an extensive cake decorating business filling orders for occasions of all sorts, particularly for anniversaries, weddings, and birthday celebrations. Larry was married to Marlene McHargue, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don McHargue of Central City. Evelyn and Robert Herbig have two sons and a daughter, Mike, Steve, and Diana while Larry and Marlene have a daughter and a son, Jenifer and Kurt. Larry and Marlene live in Ravenna, Nebraska, where both teach in the Ravenna Public School System. Larry is a candidate for his doctorate in education at the Greeley, Colorado, State University.

An incident of interest indicative of the times and activities while Elsmer was attending the rural District #27 School District is worthwhile recording. The school had an acre of land which was used for the site and playground. Many Russian Thistles blew into the school area always as northerly and southerly winds prevailed. Because the Kuskie family lived adjacent to the school but just across the road to the north the large straw pile which Bill Kuskie always had was available for students to procure straw for their activities (not, however, with Bill's permission). Finding some old tree branches, two sets of boys worked diligently building two separate Russian Thistle houses stuffed with straw. These were warm little creations with doorways so small that one had to crawl into them through little burrow holes for doors. Elsmer Kuskie, Donald Zichek, and Shirley Lutrell were the proud builders of one of the houses. One of comforts of home was a wash basin which they had procured for their domicile. One recreation period while inhabiting their rustic mansion the boys set a little fire going in the wash basin for added warmth. This worked out fine until Shirley decided to pull some of the packed straw from the sidewalls to add fuel to the flame in the basin. When this was done, the flame leaped up and ignited the entire structure with the Russian Thistles burning as though drenched with oil. Such frantic efforts to crawl out the burrow hole! But all three boys made it without a single burn! Needless to say this ended the Russian Thistle productions at District #27 school. It also meant the demolition of the other existing structure! This was to the dismay of owners Virgil Kuskie and Howard Shively. *Elsmer and Daisy Kuskie*

WILLIAM KUSKIE FAMILY

In 1915 Laura Hildebrand and William Kuskie were joined in marriage in Grand Island, Nebraska, and settled down to rural life on a farm one mile north and one mile east of Central City. William had grown up in the Friend, Nebraska, community while Laura had grown to womanhood in the vicinity of Primrose, Nebraska. Both had come from families with German ancestry as their names imply, though the Kuskie name was a shortened version of a long German name.

While living on this farm one daughter, Marjorie, and three sons, Elsmer, Virgil, and Leon, were born to this union. In 1926 the Kuskies traded farms with Ira Scott and moved two miles north and one-half mile east to the McCullough farm and located just across the road north of the District #27 schoolhouse. While living here a daughter, Donna, joined the household.

In 1934 Leon passed away of a heart condition. In the early 1950's Donna and baby lost their lives in an auto accident. Donna was the wife of Norman Schmidt. In 1948 William lost his life in a courageous battle against cancer. Marjorie was never married and passed away in the 60's while living in Beatrice, Nebraska.

The Elsmer and Virgil Kuskies' stories are to be found in nearby stories. Laura later married Frank Hines, a long time friend. They were married December 10, 1951, and lived in Central City, Nebraska until their passing. *Submitted by Elsmer and Daisy Kuskie*

VIRGIL KUSKIE FAMILY

Virgil and Maxine Kuskie have been farmers all of their lives. Both of their parents having lived on farms.

Virgil's father, Will Kuskie, was born 1885 at Dorchester, Nebraska, and passed away 1948 at the age of sixty-three. Virgil's mother, Laura Kuskie was born 1895 at Murdock, Nebraska and passed away in 1963 at the age of sixty-eight. They are both buried in the Central City Cemetery.

Maxine's father, Ed Peters was born in 1890 at Rogers, Nebraska, and passed away in 1977 at the age of eighty-six. He also is buried in the Central City Cemetery. Maxine's mother, Erma Peters, is still living at the present time. At age ninety in the year 1981 she is living at the Coolidge Rest Home in Palmer, Nebraska.

Virgil was born in Merrick County April 3, 1921, and Maxine also was born in Merrick County July 4, 1923.

Virgil and Maxine Kuskie were married May 2, 1942, at Hastings, Nebraska, and in the same year Virgil served in the United States Army for one year with the 95th Infantry Division.

In 1947 their son and only child was born, Jack Kuskie. In 1973 he married Jackie Whisler, daughter of John and Arlene Whisler of Peru, Nebraska. In 1976 their son and our grandson, Jasson Kuskie, was born.



Virgil, Maxine and Jack Kuskie

In 1952 we bought the half section of ground belonging to the late Frank and Lula Nash in Mead Township northwest of Central City. Then in 1975 we bought the quarter section of ground belonging to Beulah Bell Nash, where we are still living. We farm and grow mostly corn and alfalfa hay. We pipe irrigate and have Hereford stock cows. *Submitted by Maxine Kuskie*

DEAN & ERMA KYES

On January 22, 1908, Dean Kyes was born to Russell and Henrietta Kyes; he was the third son. He lived with his family on the farm his grandfather homesteaded in Midland Township. He attended school at District #23 and graduated from the Central City High School in 1927. He then worked with his father on the family farm.



Dean and Erma Kyes

Dean married Erma Gleason, oldest daughter of Ernest and Ella Gleason on April 23, 1930. Erma was born on September 15, 1910, in Central City and moved to a farm in Mead Township with her family when she was seven. She attended school at District 19 and graduated from High School in 1928.

After farming with his father and brother Marion for several years, Dean and Erma purchased the Robert Johnston farm in Midland Township in 1938. They continued farming there and raised their family of seven children: Robert, Dorla, Marvin, Rosalie, Larry, Joan, and Edward. These children all went to the District 23 school that their father and grandfather had attended before them. Dean served on the school board for twenty-three years. The family spent many happy days working and playing together, going to Fairview Church and Sunday School, and attending the many school activities until all had graduated from high school.

Over a period of forty-two years of farming, Dean and Erma progressed from horse-drawn machinery and corn husked by hand, to tractor-drawn machinery and then to tractor-powered machines; from dryland farming to all the cultivated land under irrigation.

Dean has served on the Rural Fire District, the Merrick County A.S.C.S. Committee, the Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Merrick Foundation Board. He received his fifty-year membership in the Lone Tree Masonic Lodge in 1979. Erma and Dean are active members in Eastern Star. They moved to a residence in Central City in 1968, with their son Marvin, moving to the homeplace. All their children and twenty-two grandchildren helped them celebrate their fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in April, 1980. They are enjoying their retirement years as active members of Fairview United Methodist Church, traveling, golfing, walking, and visiting their family and friends. *Submitted by Dean and Erma Kyes*

EDWARD KYES FAMILY

Edward Alan Kyes was born in Central City on December 26, 1943, the youngest of seven children born to Dean and Erma Gleason Kyes. He grew up on a farm in the Fairview Community north and west of Central City and got his elementary education at School District #23. His wife, Marilyn Marie Holtorf, was born in Central City on January 24, 1944, the third child of six born to Hans and Myrtle Anderson Holtorf. She grew up on a farm north of Central City and got her elementary education at School District #21. Both attended Central City High School and graduated with the Class of 1962.

On June 14, 1964, Ed and Marilyn were married in Central City. They moved to Lincoln where Ed was attending classes at the University of Nebraska and Marilyn worked for an insurance company. In June of 1966 Ed graduated with a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering. Ed took postgraduate classes for another year and a half. During this time Paula Jo was born in January of 1967. In January, of 1968, the couple with their small daughter moved to Omaha where Ed had accepted a position with an engineering firm. In the summer of that year the couple bought a home in Papillion and Ed continued working in Omaha. Lee was born in January of 1969 and Stephen in March of 1972.

In March of 1973 the family moved to their present location six miles north and three east of Central City. The farm was purchased by Marilyn's great-grandparents, A.P. Anderson, on August 21, 1911 from T.B. Hord Land and Cattle. The original farm consisted of 160 acres and was purchased for $10,400. The farm was the home of Marilyn's grandparents, David and Dora Anderson for many years.



Edward Kyes Family

In December 1973 a fourth child, John, was born.

At present all four children are attending Central City Public Schools.

Ed is a pork producer and a grain farmer. *Submitted by Marilyn Holtorf*

JOHN M. KYES FAMILY

John Kyes was born in 1838 in Oswego County in New York State. It is not known when he came to Nebraska. He had one brother, Edward, who also came to Nebraska. His brother was a Civil War veteran. At one time, he drove a stage between Kearney and Denver.

John married Miss Viola Parker December 25, 1864. They were the first couple to be married in Merrick County. To this union were born eight children. They were Edward, Mayme, Ella, Anne, Ally, Jessie, John, and Russell.

When his oldest boy Edward was eleven years old, he left him in charge of the farm, and they drove a freight wagon to the Black Hills during the gold rush.

On the 26th day of June, 1873, he purchased the north eighty acres of Section 10-14-7 for $400. Five years later, he acquired the south eighty acres of the same quarter by government patent. His grandson still lives on the original farm. A section of the house that he built still stands on what is known as the Lee Ferris farm, where it was used as a tenant house for several years.

The farm house was frequently visited by Indians who came from the reservation, up north on the Loup River, hunting game. If grandmother hap-

pened to be cleaning chickens, they would ask her for the innards and take them down to the creek and build a small fire and roast them on sticks for food.

Grandfather was a lover of good horses. At one time, he had a real nice saddle horse and it was stolen in January. He and a neighbor trailed the thief across the Platte River and caught him and the horse. They tied the thief to the horse's tail and drug him back across the Platte River. They proceeded then to hang him, and the rope broke the first two times. The third time, they succeeded.

On July 2, 1913, he sold the quarter section to his youngest son, Russell, for $9600.

My father, Russell, was married January 29, 1902 to Belle Copeland of Monpelior, Ohio. To this union were born four boys, Howard, Donald, Dean, and Marion. *Submitted by Marion Kyes*

MARION KYES FAMILY

I was the youngest of four boys born to Russell and Belle Kyes on February 7, 1915. I received my early education in District 23, and graduated from the Central City High School.

My wife, Maxine C. (Henderson) Kyes, was born at Hemmingford, Nebraska, on September 6, 1916. She received her early education in the school near her home twenty-three miles north of Torrington, Wyoming, and graduated from high school in Torrington.

We were married November 27, 1936, at Big Springs, Nebraska. We have three children. All of them received their early education at District 23 and graduated from Central City High School.

Our oldest son, Kenneth, is married to the former Sondra Tillotson of Sidney, Nebraska. They have three daughters, Lori, Deanna, and Susan. Their home is in Boulder, Colorado. He attended and graduated from Milford Technical School and is employed with I.B.M. Sondra is an R.N. and surgical supervisor in a Boulder hospital. He enlisted and served in the Army Reserve.

Our next son, Roland, has three children: two girls, Tina and Tami, and a boy James. He enlisted in the Air Force and served in Japan. Upon returning home, he graduated from Grand Island School of Commerce and is employed as head bookkeeper and office manager at the Fort Kearney Beef Producers feedlot in Minden, Nebraska.

Our daughter, Carolyn, graduated from the Omaha School of Commerce. Her husband is David Rish. He enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed at Wheelus Air Force Base in Libya, North Africa. They have three daughters, Patti, Brenda, and Linda and one boy, Kevin. She is employed at the Central City Mall and David is City Clerk for Central City.

We received the Ak-Sar-Ben Pioneer Award in 1973. My grandfather bought eighty acres of the family farm in 1873 for $400, and secured the other eighty acres in 1878 by patent from the U.S. Government.

Our farm in the early days had the only bridge across Prairie Creek that the people north and west could cross during high water when they wanted to go to Central City.

In 1893, A.W. Ericson of Galesburg, Illinois, bought the west half of 15-14-7. My father and his brother John rented it in 1894, and it was farmed by the Kyes family continously until 1977.

My wife and I served as 4-H leaders for a few years when the children were old enough to join.

Our hobbies consist mostly of trying to catch some fish, and keeping our lawn green and the weeds mowed. *Submitted by Marion Kyes*

MARVIN G. KYES FAMILY

Marvin G. Kyes was born October 1, 1937, the third of seven children born to Dean C. and Erma Kyes. He has lived practically his entire forty-three years on the present farm, having moved there when his parents purchased the farm in 1938.

Marvin is the fourth generation Kyes to farm in Midland Township and Fairview Community, his great grandfather, John Kyes, having homesteaded in the community. Marvin attended Gardner School District 23, graduated from Central City High School in 1955 and the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture in 1959. He returned to farm with his father in 1962 after serving in the United States Army Reserve.



Marvin and Mary Ann Kyes Family
1979
Back l-r — Jeff, Mary Ann, Marvin, Monte. **Front l-r** — Chad, David.

Mary Ann Kyes was born October 4, 1944 in Beaver, Oklahoma, the second of five children born to Clyde and Virgie Wells. Her father was raised on a farm near Woodward, Oklahoma. Her mother, Virgie Bartlett, lived in Omaha, Nebraska until mid-childhood when she moved to a farm near Guymon, Oklahoma. Because Mary Ann's father was a Methodist Minister, the family had the opportunity of living in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska. She attended several different schools and graduated from Ansley High School in Ansley, Nebraska in 1963. In 1964 she graduated from the Grand Island School of Business and was then an employee of the First National Bank in Aurora, Nebraska.

Marvin and Mary Ann were married on May 23, 1965 in the Methodist Church in Clarks, Nebraska where Reverend Wells was currently preaching. They started their married life in the Willeman place one mile south of Fairview Church. While residing there two sons were born, Monte Dean on January 13, 1966, and Jeffrey Lynn on February 28, 1968. In June of 1968 the family moved to the Kyes home place, as Marvin's parents had moved to Central City. Two more sons were soon to join the Kyes family, Chad Alan on June 9, 1969, and David Brent on September 13, 1970.

The family farm was purchased from Marvin's father in 1974. The farming operation presently consists of 325 irrigated acres of corn along with farrowing 120 sows and finishing between 1500 and 2000 market hogs per year.

Marvin has been an active 4-H leader for over 20 years along with serving on the Extension Board, Central City Rural Fire District Board, Midland Township Board, member of Lone Tree Lodge #36, and the Merrick County Pork Producers.

The Kyes' are active members of the Fairview United Methodist Church where Marvin has held a number of offices and Mary Ann is organist, Junior Choir director, director of two handbell choirs and a member of Senior Choir. The children have all participated in Junior Choir. The boys' interests vary from summer baseball, canoeing, all school sports, chorus, band, piano, and 4-H to taking a dip in Ferris's pool across the section. They have done very well at the county fair with their hogs and are graduates of Donna Ferris's 4-H Bird Club. We are all avid birdwatchers and are often seen stopped along the road hanging out the car window with a pair of binoculars trying to find a new bird for our life list. *Submitted by Mary Ann Kyes*

FAY LAMBERSON FAMILY

My grandpa and grandma, Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Forbes, moved from Muscatine, Iowa, to a farm near Palmer, Nebraska, in Nance County, in 1883. They moved in a covered wagon and drove eighty head of stock cows this long distance. My mother, Justa Alma Forbes (Lamberson), was born near Muscatine, Iowa, on December 17, 1881, so was very young during this move. Her brother, Frank Forbes was born September 1, 1883.

My Dad, Clifford James Lamberson, from Hooper, Nebraska, and my mother were married on June 30, 1903, at Palmer, Nebraska, but lived at Hooper, Nebraska for awhile. My oldest sister, Leta, and oldest brother, Otis, were born there.

The rest of us, two more sisters and one brother and myself were born at the farm south of Palmer, Nebraska. We moved to Nance County when I was eleven years old. We lived in both Merrick and Nance Counties, so went to rural schools in each county. My sister, Leta, taught school in the area for several years. I graduated from Fullerton High School in 1934.

I went to Iowa to work in 1937 where I met my wife. On September 18, 1941, I was called into the U.S. Army and served for four years and four months, plus. While in the army, I was married to Lois Fischer of Council Bluffs, Iowa on October 31, 1943, Halloween.

After World War II, we farmed first in Nance County and in Merrick County for five years, then to Iowa, followed by some more moves. While living in Nance County, the approach of the Loup River bridge north of Palmer was washed out during a flood and following that for some time, we would drive from the Glenwood community, our home, to the bridge. Then we would climb down a ladder to



#41 — 1925 — Leta Lamberson, teacher

the sand bar, then walk across the channel on a foot bridge, and friends from the church met us to go to church in Palmer.

We have three children, Joyce, David, and Cheryl. Joyce and David were born in Coolidge Hospital in Palmer, Cheryl was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Our oldest daughter, Joyce, lives with her family in Nanton, Alberta, Canada. David and Cheryl both live on farms in Iowa with their families. We are proud of our seven grandchildren. We were all together this last Christmas and had a joyous time. Both our parents have been gone several years. We have spent our time farming, and are now retired.

We have moved all of our farm equipment through South Omaha on L Street three times, in the course of moving from one farm to another.

My wife has two brothers and one sister living, with one brother having passed away because of a heart attack. We enjoy getting together whenever we can.

We drove to Canada several years ago to visit our daughter and family, but our visit a few years ago was by plane.

I was an Elder in the First Church of Christ in Palmer for several years and have many wonderful friends there. *Submitted by Fay Lamberson*

OTIS F. LAMBERSON

Otis Frederick Lamberson was born January 1, 1906, Hooper, Nebraska, the son of Clifford James Lamberson and Justa Forbes. He had two brothers and three sisters: Guy James, Arthur "Fay", Leta (Mrs. Harvey Brown), Maxine (Mrs. Jack Brown) and Lois (Mrs. Oscar Hadley).



Otis and Clarice Lamberson — 1956

Otis lived north of Palmer, Nebraska, in the Glenwood community prior to his marriage to Clarice Elizabeth Hoback on January 1, 1931, at St. Paul, Nebraska, by the Rev. W.J. Primose. He owned and farmed the Lamberson Farm two miles south of Palmer from 1933 until his death March 27, 1960. Interment was in the Rose Hill Cemetery, Palmer, Nebraska.

Otis attended District #41 county school and graduated from Palmer High School.

Clarice was born October 6, 1907, Davey County, West Virginia. She came to Nebraska spring of 1907 and lived in a sod house near Calloway, Nebraska. She moved to the Glenwood community in 1927. Clarice graduated from St. Paul High School in 1925.

Otis and Clarice had two sons and one daughter:

James Otis born February 19, 1933, married Marlene Krebshack October 16, 1955. They had one daughter and four sons; Pamela, Darrell Allen, Dale Lee, Dennis James (married Donna Platte, November 29, 1980), and Donald Roy.

Jean Marie born May 15, 1935, married Jerry Haag February 7, 1953. They live in Greeley, Colorado and have three daughters: Sondra (married Allen Reynolds), Terri (married Cling Stevens), and Sherril Ann (married Joseph A. Jewell).

Gerald Lee born June 24, 1939, married Georgeann Kenfield April 28, 1973. They live in Lansing, Michigan.

The picture was taken on Otis and Clarice's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. *Submitted by Rosa Hoback*

CLEM LAMBERT FAMILY

Clement Wearin Lambert was born at Malvern, Iowa, to Robert Clay and Mary Ann Spray, June 22, 1878. He passed away at the Hord Memorial Hospital in Central City, Nebraska, April 8th, 1953, at the age of 74 years, nine months, and sixteen days, following a prolonged illness. When one year of age he, with his parents and older brother, moved to a farm east of Palmer. There, he recieved his education and was affiliated with the Methodist Church. In 1898, the family moved to a ranch near Crawford, Nebraska. For two years, he was employed as a teamster at Fort Robinson.

Bertha Evaleen Randall was born February 9th, 1885, to Culver and Jennie Randall at St. Edward, Nebraska. She passed away August 17th, 1959, at Central City, Nebraska. On April 30th, 1903, Clem and Bertha were married at Crawford, Nebraska. In January 1905, they moved to Palmer, where they rented a farm for several years. To this union were born five children. Evelyn Melvina was born January 13th, 1906. Robert Randall was born November 1, 1907. Laura Lutitia was born February 3, 1910. Rosella May was born December 23, 1911. Oliver Clement was born August 23, 1914.

In 1918, they moved to a farm at Horace, Nebraska. Evelyn graduated from the Scotia High School in 1925, and taught school at Madrid, Nebraska, two years. She married a farmer May 18, 1927. In 1937, with the four children, they moved to Phoenix, Arizona, for health reasons. They both found odd jobs to keep the wolf from the door. The father found work on a ranch. The children got their education in various schools, due to changing locations a few times.

Robert R., Sr., spent a couple of years in the Navy. He passed away in a hospital in Grand Island July 31st, 1978, and was interred in the Aurora Cemetery with military rites. He left a wife and seven children to mourn his passing.

Laura L. Kohlhof passed away September 10th, 1957, in a Grand Island Hospital. Interment was in Clarks Cemetery. There were no children.

Rosella May is single and resides in Grand Island. She has one son.

Oliver C. spent four years in the Navy. He made his home, with his family, in Portland, Oregon. He resides in the West Lin Care Center, West Lin, Oregon due to a breakdown in health.

There are thirty grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. *Submitted by Mrs. I.C. Spray (Evelyn)*

Q.F. & DOLLIE LAMBERT

Quiznee Farnum Lambert was born at Malvern, Iowa November 17, 1879, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Campbell Lambert. In the summer of 1880 the family traveled by covered wagon to Merrick County, Nebraska. In March of 1881 they moved to a quarter section (Southeast Section of 33-15-8) of land one mile south of what is now Palmer.

Q.F., as he was known, attended public schools at Palmer. In 1905-06 he attended college at Valparaiso, Indiana. Here he was especially interested in mathematics and penmanship.

In 1889 he took the family farm. On February 20, 1910 Quiz was married to Dollie May McMahon Loucks. She was adopted by her mother's parents when her mother, Dorothy (Dollie) Mahala McMahon died a few days after her birth. Quiz and Dollie occupied the farm until they moved to Fullerton in the spring of 1926. Dollie was an accomplished pianist and had several young pupils.



Mr. and Mrs. Quiznee Farnum Lambert

As time went on four daughters were born, Ruth Lucile, March 22, 1911, Gladys Irene, June 24, 1913, Dorothy Louise, June 23, 1915 and Beulah Marie, October 24, 1917.

Quiz died April 20, 1954 at the Cedar Manor Home in Fullerton. He was buried in Rosehill Cemetery in Palmer. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Vine Owen and Clement Wearin and a sister, Ada Melvina. Dollie, four daughters, and eight grandchildren survive. *Submitted by Ross Bauman*

ROBERT CAMPBELL LAMBERT

Robert Campbell Lambert moved his family in 1881 to the Southeast Quarter of Section 35-15-8 one mile east of what is now the townsite of Palmer, Nebraska. The family, including two sons, traveled by covered wagon from Malvern, Iowa to Merrick County, Nebraska. He had two uncles in Loup Township, John and William Campbell, also one brother, F.C. Lambert, known as Bert. F.C. owned the quarter section of land which was one mile long, now the south portion of the townsite of Palmer.

Mr. Lambert was born May 16, 1851 on a farm at Porter's Cross Roads, Porter County, Valparaiso, Indiana. While he was quite young, his parents moved to Missouri. However, his parents were in sympathy with the North, so they moved to southern Iowa when the war broke out in 1861. They settled near what is now Sheridan, Iowa. After the war they moved back to Porter County, Indiana and settled in their old neighborhood.

On January 4, 1875 Robert married Mary Ann Spray. There were six children; Quiznee Farnum, born November 17, 1874; Clement Wearin, born June 2, 1878; Albert Ray, born January 25, 1885 and Vine Irvine, born September 13, 1893. A fifth son was born and died on April 8, 1877. There was one daughter, Ada Melvina, born September 29, 1891. She died April 11, 1904 from complications of appendicitis.

Because of complications following a severe attack of the shingles during the early winter of 1928, from which Robert never fully recovered, he retired to the I.O.O.F. home at York, Nebraska in the fall of 1929, where he died June 2, 1935. He was buried at York. *Submitted by Ross Bauman*

BEN LANTZ

Ben Lantz was born April 14, 1865 (the day Lincoln was shot) in Blacksville, West Virginia. He came to Nebraska in 1887 at twenty-two years of age. He spent his first three years feeding cattle for Charles Sayers, near Archer. On May 12, 1897 he married Allie Kyes at Archer. They moved to Laramie, Wyoming where Ben was in the employ of a large rancher, Ora Haley. They returned to



Alice Lantz Klingenberg

Merrick County in 1898, managing the Chapman ranch and elevator of the T.B. Hord interests for several years.

In 1905 they purchased the Englehardt property where their daughter Alice Klingenberg still lives. In 1906 he entered the Civil Service, delivering mail on the rural routes for twenty-six years. He retired February 9, 1932 and died in 1940.

Mrs. Lantz was born to John and Viola Kyes, July 15, 1874 in Midland township. She was the last surviving member of this pioneer family of ten children. Her parents were the first couple to be married in Merrick County. She attended Gardner School. Two children were born to the Lantz's. Bernice died in 1908 and Alice (Klingenberg), who still resides in the family home. *Submitted by Alice Klingenberg*

BOBBY JO & SUSAN LARSEN

Bobby Jo Larsen was born December 21, 1953 the son of Mr. and Mrs. Orrie Larsen of Grand Island, Nebraska. He has five brothers: Larry, John, Jamie, Tad and Tom and three sisters: LeAnn, Janie and Jodi. Bobby Jo attended schools in Grand Island.

Bobby Jo and Susan Louise Schipman were married on August 20, 1977 in the Zion Lutheran Church, Worms.

Susan, the daughter of Edwin and Melba (Bergstrom) Schipman, was born July 27, 1960. She attended Zion Lutheran School, Worms, Central City Junior High and the Palmer High School. Susan has two brothers: Albert and Robert and a sister Anita.

Bobby Jo worked at Ulrey Talbert/Gamble Robinson Warehouse in Grand Island. They lived at Shamrock Trailer Court in Grand Island, Nebraska for three months and then moved to Alda, Nebraska. They lived there for about four months and then moved to their home one mile north of Worms.

Bobby Jo has three daughters by a previous marriage. They are: Shawna, Shannon and Sheila — making their home with their mother in Grand Island.

In December of 1977 Bobby Jo started working for Kramers Iron Company and Used Auto Parts in Grand Island.



Isaac and Christina Larsen

Two children were born to them: Isaac Abel on April 13, 1978 and Christina Louise on December 26, 1979.

The Larsens have a few farm animals and two dogs.

Being a housewife and mother of two little ones keeps Susan busy.

They are members of the Zion Lutheran Church, Worms. *Submitted by Susan L. Larsen*

HANS V. LARSEN FAMILY

In 1939, my parents, Hans and Sena Larsen, my sister Gloria, and I moved from our farm home near Marquette to Central City. Though we all loved the farm, the Dust Bowl era of grasshoppers, drought and depression brought a change in our lives as it did to so many others.

Among the first in his county to plant hybrid seed, father liked what he saw, and when given the opportunity to become Sales Supervisor for Pioneer Seeds, he chose to make this his life's work . . . informing all farmers of Hybrid's superior qualities. Gloria and I were particularly fond of his business when we were allowed to take the family car to deliver sacks of corn around the area! Father's concern for farmers' costs led to origination of the "Replant Agreement" still used by seed companies today. Early 1940's found him responsible for the first carload of commercial fertilizer to reach this area (Ammonium Nitrate shipped from British Columbia and distributed along Platte Valley).

With ideas and energy to spare, he turned his attention to civic matters. He liked to see the city grow. With help from many others, like Tom Moates, Leonard Glantz, Stan Torpin, Newell Cunningham, etc., was established the first Community Baseball Park. In 1959 he spearheaded the fund-raising drive for the new Masonic Temple. 1965 found him leading a successful drive for funds to build Merrick Manor. 1959 through his efforts the new bank, now Central Bank, was founded. As City Councilman, he fought hard for creation of the Municipal Swimming Pool.

Father retired in 1969. Mother maintains her career at home as housekeeper and head cheerleader for the family. Both daughters married Central City men. Gloria married Richard Wagner, now President and General Manager of the Cincinnati Reds Baseball Club. Beverly married Edward McIlnay, President of a petroleum engineering consulting firm, McIlnay-Adams, Inc., Casper, Wyoming.

For a man whose formal education was limited to eight grades and a short course, Nebraska Agriculture, father's love for knowledge combined with mother's former school teacher's respect for education became manifest in their grandchildren.

Randy Wagner (PHD. Yale University) married to Sally Doyle, teaches at Texas University, Austin.

Cindy Wagner Dryak (M.S. Agronomy, Ohio University) married to Tony Dryak, is on the research staff of Betelle Development.

Sheila McIlnay Wirth (J.D. Nebraska University) is a staff attorney, 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, Denver, Colorado. She and her husband, Bernie Wirth, have one child, Adam Edward Wirth.

Sharon McIlnay Rogers (M.B.A. Nebraska University) married to Gifford Rogers, Jr. teaches Business Administration at Doane College, Crete, Nebraska.

At reunion times, the Larsen house still resounds with spirited discussions about the past and the present, politics and morality, and dreams of the future. And everywhere we go, we are all proud to call Central City our "home town". We remember with great joy all the good times we were privileged to share in wonderful Merrick County. *Submitted by Beverly Larsen McIlnay*

ARTHUR & GRACE LARSON

Arthur Larson, now eighty-seven years of age, was born January 25, 1894 at Hordville in Hamilton County to John and Fredricka Pearson Larson. He was confirmed at the Fridhem Lutheran Church in Hordville in his youth, also received his education in Hordville. He worked as a farmer in Hamilton County as a young man.

He married Bessie Dungan, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dungan of Central City, in February, 1917. They had a son, Richard E., born in May of 1918. Bessie died during the flu epidemic in 1919 and is buried in the Central City Cemetery.

Arthur, left with an infant son to care for continued farming in the Hamilton and Merrick County area.

Grace McClure, the daughter of Samuel and Alena Mae Hanna McClure was born on a farm near Palmer March 16, 1897, married Mr. Larson December 26, 1928. They moved to the Central City area at this time.

A daughter, Patricia, was born July 31, 1931 to the couple.

The couple lived on farms in the ridge area until 1942 when they moved to an acreage just south of Central City on Highway 14. They moved into Central City in 1942. Mr. Larson worked for Wegner Monument during this time.

Grace died July 5, 1968. Mr. Larson remained in the home until his health forced him to move to Bethesda Care Center where he is now a resident. *Submitted by Patricia Stephenson*

IRL & MILDRED LARSON

Irl Larson was born on a farm northeast of Marquette on November 26, 1896. He grew up in the Marquette area where his father owned an implement store. Irl served in World War I, returning to Hordville in 1918, where he worked for his brother Reuben in an auto repair garage. On May 1, 1923, Irl and his brother Clarence moved to Central City, starting an auto garage selling Buicks, and on August 28, 1924, they acquired the Chevrolet franchise. From that early beginning, Larson Chevrolet is still in business, owned and operated by Irl's son, Ken. Today it is the second oldest family business in Central City.

Mildred Benson was born March 14, 1903, on a farm northeast of Marquette, moving to a farm south of Hordville when just a child. She attended Hordville and Aurora schools.



Irl and Mildred Larson

On November 8, 1923, Irl and Mildred were united in marriage, and in 1929 built their home at 2016 16th Avenue where they raised their three children, Kenneth, Betty, and Carol, which gave them ten grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Through the years, Irl was active in church and community affairs. He was a charter member of the Chamber of Commerce, and served several years on the school board as well as on the church boards. Mildred's activities included not only church activities, but until 1980 played golf and still belongs to a bowling league and continues to lead an active life.

On August 5, 1980, Irl passed away and is buried in the Central City Cemetery.

Irl and Mildred were very proud of the contributions their family has made in this community. Irl served in the military service as did their son, Ken, both son-in-laws, two grandsons, and one grand son-in-law. *Submitted by Mrs. Irl Larson*

MARTIN A. LARSON

Martin A. Larson was born March 10, 1885 at Stark, now Hordville in Hamilton County, the son of John and Fredricka Pearson Larson. He was one of a family of four sisters and six brothers. As a young man he was confirmed at the Fridhem Lutheran Church in Hordville.

He came to Central City in 1912 when he founded the Nebraska Realty Auction Company. He was the first man in Nebraska to sell real estate at auction. He operated the business until his retirement in 1957.

In 1958 he was named Central City's Outstanding Citizen. Mr. Larson dedicated much of his time and energy to the promotion of many civic and community projects. He was instrumental in securing a new hospital and donated the land for the site where the present Litzenberg Memorial Hospital is located.

He was a charter member of the Nebraska Mid-State Association which was organized in 1946. It was replaced in 1949 by the Mid-State Reclamation District of which he was also a charter member and a Board of Director member.

Martin was one of the first of Nebraska's listed-

realtors and was president of the Nebraska Realtor's Association in 1925.

He made his home for many years in the Merrick Hotel following the death of his parents. Following the closing of the hotel he then made his home in the Yancey Hotel in Grand Island, until his health forced him to the long term care wing of St. Francis Hospital.

He had never married.

He died January 10, 1972 at the St. Francis Hospital. He was buried in the Hordville cemetery near the Friedham church. *Submitted by Patricia Larson Stephenson*

MINNIE LARSON

The first generation of my family to come to America. Elias Danhauer, my great-great-grandfather came from Germany at the young age of sixteen years. He was a stowaway on the boat Charlotte, landing at the port of Philadelphia in 1803. He therefore was required to serve as an indentured servant on a farm for three years, receiving no pay during this time. He became a citizen of the United States in 1812. In 1813 he married Elizabeth Ann Cummins, venturing westward, they came to Muskingum County, Ohio, and settled near Zanesville, acquiring 103 acres of land, where he resided until his death. My great-grandfather, Samuel Danhauer, was born on this farm and grew up there. In 1843 he married Catherine France. Their oldest son John E. Danhauer was my grandfather. With his young family, Samuel ventured westward to Clay County, Indiana, where he built a cabin and proceeded to make a home with all the experience of a pioneer. He became the owner of 346 acres of land.

My grandfather, John E. Danhauer grew up on this farm, and at eighteen years of age joined the United States Army, and served until the close of the Civil War. In 1866 he married Mahala Oswalt. The young couple moved to Douglas County, Illinois, where they resided for a few years. My mother Emma Catherine Danhauer was born there in 1870. In 1870 my grandfather came to Nebraska, from Illinois by team and wagon. He settled in Hamilton County, taking up a homestead of one-hundred and sixty acres, one-half mile south of the Platte River. His wife and young daughter came later by train. The Danhauer's lived the first year in a dug out home.

The following summer a frame house was built and still stands after 109 years. This was my grandfather's home in excess of fifty years. My grandfather endured many hardships known only to the pioneers in the early days of Nebraska. There were no roads, only trails and no bridges. In spite of those trying years in Nebraska for my grandfather, by diligence and hard work, converted the sparsely grassed plains into flourishing fields, gradually surrounding himself and his family with the comforts of life, and the hardships of those early years eventually became only a memory.

My mother, Emma Catherine Danhauer, grew up on this farm. She received a common country school education, walking or riding horseback quite a distance to the Castle school until a school was built in Cedar Valley, District Thirty-six. She later attended Nebraska Central College at that time a Methodist supported college. The only transportation being by horseback, and fording the river shortened the distance. Her father insisted she carry a small Derringer pistol in her purse as some means of safety from the Indians, as some still roamed the prairies.



Freeman L. and Minnie Larson

My mother became the wife of Charles Bert Land. They spent most of their married life on the homestead, as mother Mahala passed away the year that my mother was married. I too, grew up on this same farm with two sisters and five brothers, all attending Cedar Valley School.

In 1920, I became the bride of Freeman L. Larson of Hordville, Nebraska, and so my first move from home was to this little town where my husband was engaged in the threshing business and a part-time mechanic in the garage.

The early twenties were not good years economically, as our country was going through a short recession, struggling to recover from the aftermath of World War I. By 1924 things were greatly improved and in that year we became owners of the garage there and acquired the agency for the Hudson and Essex cars. The life of the Hudson was short lived, the Essex lasted a little longer.

In 1928 we sold our garage to Richard (Dick) Anderson and moved to Central City where we had purchased a garage and the agency for the Dodge and Plymouth cars. Times seemed good and the economy seemed stable. But in 1930 our country was hit with a depression and drouth that lasted nearly a decade. Then we found ourselves faced with another war. World War II seemed inevitable and ironically it brought pay rolls, prosperity and millionaires, but with the loss of over one million of our young men.

My husband retired from the garage business in 1959, and passed away in 1966. I have lived alone since that time. I am kept busy with the work in my home and yard. For several years I have spent a great deal of time compiling the history of my family from many generations back, to the present. We are the parents of five children, all graduates of the Central City High School, and some attended Nebraska Central College. Our children are Lucile (Paul) Schmoker, Helen (Jim) Flagle, Shirley (Donald) Booth, Twila (Dale) Campbell, and son Larry who passed away in 1972. *Submitted by Mrs. Minnie Larson*

ROY & IVA LARSON

Roy A. Larson, the youngest of six sons born to Charles Oscar and Martha Strandberg Larson, was born at Marquette, Nebraska, on August 10, 1910.

Iva H. Lear, daughter of Albert David and Emma E. Page Lear was born at Central City on January 30, 1913.

Roy and Iva were married on August 10, 1931, at Clay Center, Nebraska. From this union three children were born: David R. in 1935, Richard D. in 1937 and Patricia Ann in 1940. All members of the Larson family are graduates of Central City High School.

David Larson, his wife Janet and two of their children, Linda and Michael, reside in Derby, Indiana. Their son Dwight and his wife Jackie, are in Kearney, Nebraska. David's daughter, Marcia Fuss and her husband Charles live in Fort Hood, Texas.

Richard Larson, his wife Susan and their daughter, Rochelle, live in Englewood, Colorado. Daughter Cindy and her husband, Max England, live in Doniphan, Nebraska while Debbie lives in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Patricia Ann, her husband Richard Gerdts, and their children, Melissia and James, live in Troy, Michigan.

From 1926 to 1950 Roy worked at the Larson Chevrolet Garage in Central City. In 1947, Roy and Iva built and managed Central City's first airport. In 1950 the family built their own service garage, Roy's Service Center, at 810 C Ave. In 1960 Roy and Iva established D&R Lanes, Inc. bowling alley in Central City.

The Larson family were all active in all phases of scouting and many other civic projects.



Roy and Iva Larson — 50th Anniversary

Roy and Iva retired from active business in 1972 and reside at 2017 18 Avenue in the home they built in 1938. They have nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. *Submitted by Iva Larson*

FRED LAUB FAMILY

Frederick Laub came to America with his family from Coblenz, Germany in 1848 when he was nine years old. They settled near Syracuse, New York, but soon moved to Cambridge, Illinois, where the winters weren't so severe. He received his education there and then enlisted with the Union Army in the Civil War. He married Katherine Nordeen in 1869, who died in 1870.

In the spring of 1871, Fred Laub and three brothers came to Merrick County and they all settled on land north and east of Chapman. Fred bought eighty acres in 31-13-7 from the Union Pacific Railroad in 1872 for $6 an acre, which he nearly let go back some years later as it was hard to make enough to pay off the mortgage. At the same time, he homesteaded 160 acres in 32-13-7 where he planted all the trees, many of which are still there.

The Laub brothers, on occasion, would travel north to the Loup River after wood. Tbis took them through Pawnee Territory. They told about staying overnite with the Pawnees one bitterly cold night, sitting around the fire in the teepee and shivering with their coats on while the Indians appeared to be perspiring, wearing little clothing.

Fred Laub's second wife was Mary Olivia Young from Janesville, Wisconsin. Her first marriage was to Walter Morrill who died of diphtheria a year after their daughter, Nellie Morrill Brandt, was born. Mary then married Fred McCathron in Wisconsin, where he was killed in an Indian uprising. They had a son, Fred McCathron.

Mary had the misfortune of breaking her hip, which hadn't healed properly and was very painful. She wanted to come to Merrick County, Nebraska, where she had relatives, to start a new life and to break the morphine habit which she had been taking to relieve the painful hip. Her older sister Jane Young agreed to come with her and they made the trip to Chapman in a covered wagon in October, 1872. They travelled with two small children across Indian country without mishap. Mary and her



Fred and Mary Laub — daughter Edna

children lived west of Chapman and she told how the Indians would stand at her kitchen window and watch her and if they came to the door wanting food, she gave it to them, pan and all.

Mary went to a square dance soon after coming to Chapman. She was visiting with neighbors when some young man pulled her suddenly out of her chair and onto the dance floor, not knowing she had a bad hip. There was a loud crack and the young man was about mobbed before it became evident that her hip had not broken again, but had snapped back into place. She never had anymore trouble with it.

Fred Laub and Mary McCathron were married in 1874 and lived on the homestead where Gertrude was born in 1875. Gertrude married Harry Easter in 1894. The Laubs moved into Chapman in 1894 where Edna was born February 8, 1897. She was fourteen when her mother died of pneumonia in 1900. Edna lived with her father until she was married to Ernest Ogden in 1911. Fred Laub died in 1921. *Submitted by Barbara Ogden*

WILLIAM LAUDER FAMILY

My father, William James Lauder, arrived at Silver Creek from Michigan the day of the blizzard of 1888. He rented an eighty-acre farm from Charles Sprague, and batched for two years.

My mother, Olive Graves, came from Indiana to visit her brother, who was a good friend of my father. They were married in December, 1893.

I, Gertrude Lauder Ward, was born in October, 1894, in the first year of the two-year drought of 1894 and 1895.

As our farm was along the river, the crops received sub-moisture. My father had half a crop of corn of good texture. He was able to sell it for seed corn to farmers from Genoa, Columbus, and Duncan for double price, so received as much as if he had a full crop.

My sister, Vivian, was born in August, 1897. She only lived three years.

In early 1900, my father bought one hundred sixty acres on what was known as Poverty Ridge, for a small sum per acre. It was mostly hay land. Silver Creek was noted for its shipments of baled hay.

Many shipped cattle, hogs, and sheep by rail to Omaha and Chicago markets. My father would ship a carload of cattle to Chicago, getting a free ticket. Then he would go on to visit relatives in southern Michigan. He took me on one trip when I was six years old, to visit my ailing grandfather, James Lauder.

When I was eight years old, I went with my mother to Indiana to visit grandparents. We always spent one night on the train. I got a thrill watching the conductor light the gas lights on the ceiling of the car. The seats were like long benches, so I could sleep on one and Mother would rest on the one facing me.

Irl James Ward and I were married June 3, 1914. We had a grocery store at Silver Creek for four years. When my parents retired in 1919, we rented the Sprague farm.

We had three daughters: Dorene, now Mrs. Dale Frizzell; Zelda Zee, now Mrs. L.T. VanWinkle. Our daughter, Wilda, was killed in an auto-train accident in 1940.

We bought the Sprague farm in 1937. We went through the grasshopper and drought years, when we went without newspaper, radio or telephone. The telephone bill of $3.85 would buy a pair of shoes for our children.

My father died in 1936, and my mother in 1963.

We still have the two farms in our family, farmed by my son-in-law, L.T. VanWinkle.

My husband died in 1953. I lived on the same farm for 55 years.

I now live at Good Samaritan Center at Osceola, Nebraska, and am eighty six years of age. *Submitted by Gertrude Lauder Ward*

THE LEAMONS FAMILY

Morgan M. Leamons came to Nebraska as a small boy with his parents, brothers, and sisters from the Galesbury, Illinois area and settled on a farm in the Clarks area.

M.M., as he was known to all of his friends and neighbors, was united in marriage to Ella Mae Streeter, also from the Merrick County area. To this union seven children were born, Lloyd, Lester, Gladys, Dorothy, Anita, Harvey, and Maybelle. Dorothy and Anita passed away in infancy. Merrick County remained the home for the M.M. Leamons family except for a few years that were spent in neighboring Nance County. Farming was always their means of support. M.M. passed away in 1939, Ella passed away in 1943.

Lloyd Leamons was married to Hazel Brannan, Archer, Nebraska. To this union three children were born: Eileen Bannick, who resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Lloyd Junior, who is deceased, and Marvin, who lives in Loveland, Colorado. Lloyd, Sr., was farmer in the Chapman area most of his life.

Lester was married to Lucille Robertson, Central City. He was an auto mechanic. To this union four children were born: Thomas, Huntington Beach, California; William, Long Beach, California; Kathryn Garcia, San Bernardino, California; Donald, Parker, Arizona. Lester is deceased. His wife, Lucille, still resides at San Jacinto, California.

Gladys Leamons was married to Edson Chandler, Central City. To this union were three children: Maxine Shelton, Central City, Nebraska; Charles, Columbus, Nebraska; Donald, Ralston, Nebraska. Gladys and Edson are both deceased.

Harvey Leamons was married to Lucille Pennington, Silver Creek, Nebraska. He taught in Nebraska schools for thirty-four years — twenty-one of them being in the high school at Grand Island, Nebraska. To them were born Alnetta Schroeder, Columbus, Nebraska; Joan Miller O'Fallon, Illinois; Richard, who is married to Annette Stenka, lives in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Maybelle Leamons was married to Floyd Roach, Grand Island, Nebraska. To them were born Barbara Cole, Loveland, Colorado, and Larry Roach, Grand Island, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. M.M. Leamons would have thirteen grandchildren, twenty-four great grandchildren and a number of great, great grandchildren. *Submitted by Harvey and Lucille Leamons*

GEORGE LEE FAMILY

George Lee was the son of James Lee and Mantie A. Bone Owens Lee. He was born and raised on the farm that had been homesteaded by his mother's father, James Bone. Most of his life was spent on this same farm which is still the Lee Farm. He spent some years on a farm near Silver Creek and then returned to this same farm until he and his wife retired and moved into Central City. George's mother had come to this farm, which was two and one-half miles north of the Pleasant Hill School, from Iowa with her first husband, Anson Owens. To this union were born two daughters, Sadie Owens Cundiff and Ethel Owens Shively.

After the death of Anson Owens, Mantie Owens married James Lee and they had three children, Ira, George and Gladys. George married Mildred Sidders of Clarks and they had twelve children, namely: Donald O. Lee of Memphis, Tennessee, Richard D. Lee of Seattle, Washington, Ruby Burns of Cleveland, Ohio, Bill Lee of Palmer, Nebraska, Bonnie Vigna of Stockton, California, Shirley Hatten of Fremont, Nebraska, Carol Swanger of St. Louis, Missouri, Gladys Mead of Newman Grove, Nebraska, Jim Lee of Omaha, Nebraska, Mildred Mustard of Central City, Nebraska, Jack Lee of Central City, Nebraska, and Doris Fleek of Eureka, California. The family attended the Pierce Chapel Church.

James and Mantie Lee, George and Mildred Lee and Sadie and Joseph Evans Cundiff are buried in the Fullerton Cemetery. The accompanying picture is of James and Mantie Lee with their five children and their families taken in 1924. *Submitted by Alnetta Reeves, Niece*

HERMANN LEFFELBEIN



Hermann and Katherine Leffelbein Family — Herman, Irene, Milton, Viola, Delores and Katherine

Hermann Gustev Leffelbein and Katherine Louise Frederking were married in Worms on August 26, 1903. They settled in Merrick County three miles south of Worms in Section 31, Township 13. Hermann was born on December 6, 1877, in the Archer Community where he also attended school. He was the son of August and Meta Zamzow Leffelbein. He was confirmed in Worms in 1892.



James Lee Family — 1924

Katherine was born June 14, 1884, in West Phalia, Germany. She was the daughter of Henry and Louise Langenheder Frederking. When she was eleven, her family emigrated to America, and settled just north of Grand Island on the old St. Paul Road. Five years later they moved to Merrick County, two and a half miles south and one and a half miles east of Worms. They farmed their whole life, until retirement, three miles south of Worms where they raised four children.

Irene was born June 1, 1904, in Merrick County now living in Iowa. Irene took her schooling in a Lutheran School called Concordia Schulverein (School Organization). This school was begun because travel at this time was limited. In later years it was shut down as travel became easier. The students of this school were members of St. John's Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, and Zion, Worms. Irene was confirmed at Zion in 1918. She married Henry Peters on September 28, 1924, in Worms. They raised five children. In 1944, they moved to Iowa. Henry and Irene were baptized, confirmed, and married in the Worms Church.

Milton was born April 1, 1907, in Merrick County. He received his education in the Lutheran School Schulverein. He rode his horse in the morning to Worms school during his seventh and eighth grades to receive his confirmation classes and then rode to Schulverein for his remaining classes. He was confirmed in 1921. Milton married Freida Helzer in 1937. They had three children. Milton died March 18, 1972, and is buried at Worms.

Viola was born January 26, 1912, in Merrick County. She received her first few years of schooling in the Schulverein School and the remaining years in Worms. She was confirmed in 1926. In June 1932, Viola married Ted Dankert. They settled in Grand Island, and raised three children. In the late 1940's, Ted was transferred to Wichita, Kansas by Sears. They have lived there since then.

Delores was born October 24, 1917, in Merrick County. She received her schooling in Worms, and was confirmed in 1931. Delores furthered her education by going to Senior High, Grand Island. She graduated in 1937. In 1941 she started working in the Overland National Bank. She worked there until her retirement in 1979. Clarence (Frenchy) Guyette and Delores were married March 9, 1963, in Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Island. They lived north of Grand Island on Highway 281. Clarence passed away in December 1980.

Hermann and Katherine moved to Grand Island on 250 Vine Street, in 1949. In September, 1949, they moved and retired on Koenig Street. Hermann died December 25, 1952, and Katherine died March 25, 1960. They are both buried in the Grand Island Cemetery.

Submitted by Dean and Julie Loeffelbein

MILTON LOEFFELBEIN

Milton Fredrick Loeffelbein and Freida Caroline Elizabeth Helzer were married June 18, 1937, in Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Island. They lived their entire lives farming one mile south of Worms, Section 19, Township 13.

Milton was born April 1, 1907, in Merrick County, son of Hermann and Katherine Frederking Leffelbein. He received his education in the Schulverein School, and was confirmed at Zion in 1921. He farmed with his father until 1928, when he purchased his own farm.



Milton and Freida Loeffelbein

Freida Helzer was the daughter of Louie and Elizabeth Ault Helzer. She was born February 2, 1907, in Howard County, and attend Zion Lutheran School at Worms, where she was confirmed in 1921. Fredia worked out as a hired girl, mainly taking care of mothers with new babies after her schooling. The minister of Worms, Rev. F. Frese, moved from here to Chicago in 1932. Later that year he found a job for Freida in Chicago. She travelled there on a train, and was a maid in the Richard Weber home. Freida returned to Worms in 1937, and was married the same year. They raised three children.

Darlene Yvonne, born March 12, 1938, received her early education at Zion in Worms. She went to Senior High in Grand Island then two years at Palmer High School, graduating in 1956. After graduation she worked at Commercial National Bank in Grand Island. She married Larry Bahensky on May 4, 1958. Larry was in the Armed Forces, and Darlene travelled with him throughout the States. They settled in St. Paul in 1962, and raised three daughters: Shari, born January 5, 1961; Pam, born June 3, 1964; Lisa, born January 15, 1969. The family miles two miles south of St. Paul on Highway 281, where they own and operate Bahensky Well Drilling. They are all active members of Christ Lutheran Church in St. Paul.

Kenneth Milton was born March 9, 1941, in Merrick County. He received his education in Worms and was confirmed in 1955. He went to high school in Palmer. Ken farmed several years in the Worms and Loup City areas until he moved into Loup City and bought into Tri Valley Equipment. During this time he raised three children: Tammy, born August 19, 1965; Kenneth Junior (Butch), born July 14, 1967; and Danielle, born November 2, 1977. Ken was married to Diane Levandowski of Arcadia in the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Loup City February 4, 1979. Their son, Joseph Dale, was born December 4, 1980. Ken now owns Tri Valley Equipment and still resides in Loup City.

Their youngest son, Dean Herman, was born May 3, 1944.

Milton and Freida were both active members of Zion Lutheran Church in Worms. Freida was a member of Dorcas Ladies Aid, and Milton belonged to the Voters Association and served as Elder, Secretary, and other offices for the congregation. He also belonged to the Farmer's Union, Branch 1401.

Freida passed away January 17, 1970, and Milton passed away March 18, 1972. Both are buried at Zion in Worms. *Submitted by Dean and Julie Loeffelbein*

DEAN & JULIE LOEFFELBEIN

Dean Herman, son of Milton and Freida Helzer Loeffelbein, was raised on the family farm one mile south of Worms in Section 19, Township 13. He received his education at Zion Lutheran School in Worms, where he was baptized, confirmed and married. He was confirmed in 1958. He received two years of high school in Palmer, transferring and graduating from Grand Island Senior High. Dean then served two years in the United States Army, where he was stationed in Germany. He came home and farmed with his father for two years. He then enrolled and graduated from the Grand Island School of Business. He was employed at Dale Electronics in Columbus and also Sears in Grand Island. In 1971, he returned home to farm with his father.

Dean married Julie Ann Christensen June 18, 1972, at Zion in Worms. Julie, daughter of Richard and Phyllis Keldsen Christensen of Dannebrog, was born June 9, 1953, in Grand Island. She went to country school, District #16, in Howard County, then transferred to and graduated from St. Paul High School. Julie was confirmed in 1967 from Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Dannebrog. Julie was employed at Lone Tree Cafe and Holiday Inn in Grand Island prior to her marriage.

Dean and Julie farmed for seven years, after they were married, on his father's farm. After selling all but five acres of their farm in March 1978, the couple built a new home one mile south of Worms, and Dean went to work for Greenline Equipment Company in Grand Island, the John Deere dealer.



Dean Loeffelbein Family — 1980
Dean, Steve, Julie and Lesley

Dean is a member of Voter's Association at Zion Lutheran, and Julie is a member of Dorcas Ladies Aid. Julie is also a member of Cheerie Center Club, joining in 1975, and served as President in 1980. Dean was a charter member of the Junior Farmhands 4-H Club.

Dean and Julie have two children, Lesley Lea, born November 4, 1973, in Grand Island, and is currently a first grader in Zion Lutheran School at Worms. Son, Steven Dean, was born March 15, 1976, in St. Paul. He will attend kindergarten starting in the fall of 1981 at Worms. The couple is expecting their third child in July 1981. *Submitted by Dean and Julie Loffelbein*

CALVIN & MARIAN LEPP

Calvin Carroll Lepp was born February 26, 1927, in Grainton, Nebraska. He is the son of Louis and Fleeta Rutledge Lepp. He has two brothers; Wilbur, who lives at Wood River, and Eldon, living in North Platte. Cal graduated from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and worked as Merrick County Extension Agent from 1952 through 1959. He then became a partner in Lepp and Larson, a John Deere Implement dealership that he now owns and known as Ag-Land, Inc.

Marian Kathleen Ellsworth was born January 20, 1930, to Bertram and Ethel Vose Ellsworth, in Lincoln, Nebraska. She graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University and is a piano teacher and organist.

Calvin and Marian were married August 20, 1950, in the United Presbyterian Church in North Platte where her family had moved in 1941.

Calvin and Marian have three daughters. Cindy Anne is married to Lyle Scheer, lives three miles west of Worms, and has two daughters. Laurie Marie, born July 24, 1956, graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan and continued schooling in St. Louis. She is a Registered Physical Therapist and married to Keith Kanegawa, and they live in Lodi, California. Gail Louise, born July 25, 1959, will graduate from the University of Nebraska with a degree in advertising in 1981.

The family attends services at United Presbyterian in Central City. Cal's hobbies are woodworking-related and he is making a doll house for his granddaughters. *Submitted by Cindy Ann Lepp Scheer*

DARLENE WIEGERT LEVENE

I was born at my Grandpa and Grandma Ueckert's home on East Seedling Mile, September 19, 1946. I grew up on our farm nine miles northeast of Grand Island. I am the oldest of three children.

I remember many of the good "ole" times on the farm. I still miss that country living. I helped Dad with chores, marking and vaccinating calves. Riding the ditcher to make irrigation ditches and raking hay was lots of fun!

I was baptized and confirmed at Emmanuel United Brethren Church. I was in the church

Mission Band, and the Cloverleaf 4-H Club. I took piano lessons from Ardis Beckman in Grand Island.

I attended District No. 32, then Walnut Junior High School in Grand Island, graduating from Grand Island Senior High in 1964. I graduated from Grand Island School of Business and went to work for the Grand Island School System, later to George E. Clayton & Associates, Architects, which is now Richard E. Willis & Associates, Architects.

August 8, 1970, I married David Ruiz in Grand Island, Nebraska. He was in the Army and we were sent to Highlands, New Jersey, then to Brooklyn, New York. After living in Nebraska (with the wide open spaces), I thought people were rude and unfriendly in New York. If you told someone you were from Nebraska, they would ask if we still had cowboys and Indians here!!

On May 16, 1971, our daughter Tammi Kay was born at St. Albans, New York. Tammie was baptized at Faith United Methodist Church in Grand Island, by the Rev. Melvin Koelling, in December of 1971. In March of 1973 Tammi and I came back to Grand Island and in May 1973, I went to work at Chief Industries in Grand Island.

In 1974 David and I were divorced.

Tammi and I bought a home on 10th Street in 1975. February 5, 1977, I married Robert Levene in Faith United Methodist Church in Grand Island, Nebraska, with Dr. Donald Roker officiating. My sister, Marlene Wiegert, and Bob's brother Larry Levene were our attendants. When we were about ten years old we lived a mile apart, so we were not strangers.

In 1977 I went to work for the City of Grand Island as a secretary in the Engineering Department.

Bob is a sales representative for Grand Island Furnace and Supply. March, 1978 we went to Santa Domingo, a trip we won through his company. In March of 1978 we bought our home at 115 East 21st Street in Grand Island. We moved into the house on June 3, 1978. What a memorable date June 3rd is to the people of Grand Island, as we will never forget that devastating tornado of 1980 that seemed like a nightmare!

In 1980 my husband won us another trip, this time to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico!!



Bob and Darlene Levene with Tammie, 9 years

Tammi will start fourth grade at Knickrehm School this fall. She is active in 4-H Club, swims, and is in Junior Choir at Faith United Methodist Church. *Submitted by Darlene Wieget Levene*

JOHN B. LEWIS

Our parents spent much of their lifetime in Merrick County, and several of their direct descendants are present residents.

John B., son of John and Mary Lawson Lewis, was born in Des Moines, Iowa, December 7, 1866. The family moved to Polk County, Nebraska in June, 1873, and staked a homestead in the Swede Home community. It took twenty-three days to move in covered wagons pulled by oxen as they forded ice on the Missouri.

Anna Marie, daughter of Hayo and Margaret



Mr. and Mrs. John B. Lewis

Sachtjen Taddiken, came to Nebraska from Oldenburg, Waddewarden, Germany, to Bellwood, Nebraska. Her sisters settled there previously. She married my father August 16, 1890, when she was sixteen. Mrs. Lewis had a deep devotion for America and, except for her parents and sisters, always spoke American English. She was very proud of her own son, Bill, when he went into World War I in 1916, even though he would be in combat in her mother country.

They lived in Polk County until 1897, when they moved near Silver Creek. They lived alternately in Nance and Merrick County, moving to Merrick County in 1926, where they resided at the time of their death, both passing on in 1940, and interred in Central City cemetery.

My father farmed with horses, usually keeping six to eight head since teams were changed often, most machinery being pulled with four head of horses. We children remember Dad walking behind a plow or cultivator all day. He welcomed the sulky plow so he could ride. All of us helped pick corn by hand, which took most of the winter.

Well we remember the depression when the sand blew and cut off the young shoots of corn. Times were hard, and there was a stock market crash in 1929 and a bank holiday called in 1933. President Roosevelt enacted New Deal programs such as CCC Camps, NYA, WPA, and others to create employment for millions.

There were ten children in the Lewis family: The six deceased are: Mary Daisy (Edward) Aldrich lived in Payette, Idaho; William (Lillie Butler) served in 134th Infantry, Company. One I in World War I, died in Snohomish, Washington; Sadie (Herbert) Miller lived north of Palmer fifty years; Lorna May (Henry Hagen) lived near Palmer, moving to Central City in 1937; Alice (Arnot) Cushman lived here awhile, then moved to Louisville; Marie (Andrew) Krug lived her lifetime in Merrick County, and was a beauty operator in Chapman.

The four living children are: Margaret (Robert) Aldrich lived in Cass County when Robert died. She married LaVergne Hammond in 1975, and they live at Olathe, Kansas; Clarence (Edith Cushman) Lewis is a retired farmer living at Doniphan; Edith (Herold) Luster is now a widow and lives at Puyallup, Wisconsin; Lillian (Robert) Krug has lived on a farm west of Central City for forty years.

There were thirty-two grandchildren, three are deceased. Several still live in Merrick County. They are Mae Rasmussen, Chapman, Elmer Miller, Clarks, Delbert Miller, Central City, and Leola Burkhardt, Palmer, children of Sadie Miller; and Vera Mae (Don) Christensen, daughter of Lorna Hagen; and Norman Krug, Chapman, and Sandra Krug, children of Lillian Krug.

The Lewises are buried in Central City Cemetery. *Submitted by Lillian Krug*

THE LINDGREEN FAMILY

In March of 1920, Charles came to Merrick County at the age of seven from Valparaiso, Nebraska, with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Lindgreen and three sisters. They settled on a farm east of Archer, Nebraska, where his father was engaged in farming and carpentering. Charles attended grade school at District #24 and graduated from Archer High School. His father passed away in 1926, when he was a freshman, so with the help of his Uncle Jim Sporer, they continued on the farm and he took over after graduation in 1929.

Edith was born in Nance County, north of Fullerton, Nebraska, and came to Merrick County with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Wiles, and her sister, Vera, in March of 1911, when she was one year old. She has lived west of Clarks most of her life. She attended grade school at District #25, and graduated from Clarks High School in 1926. After graduation, she attended Nebraska Central College and Kearney State College for two years. She taught school in Colfax County and stayed at the home of her cousin, Mrs. George Eller for one year, after which she taught in Merrick County, Districts #44, 8, and 3.

Charles and Edith were married August 7, 1936, at her parents' home, (where they now reside). They lived on the Lindgreen farm east of Archer four years. Their son, Gary Charles, was born July 30, 1939, and in 1940 they moved to the farm that was known as the Henry Sims farm, west of Clarks. Maurice Eli was born on November 5, 1942. In 1950, Mr. and Mrs. Wiles moved to Central City, so the Lindgreen family moved to the home place where they now live.



Charles and Edith Lindgreen

Charles and his sons farmed and raised cattle together until 1974, when Charles retired from farming. The boys and their families have homes on the farm. They raise cattle, and farm together.

Gary and Edwardine Mae Hoback, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hoback of Central City were married April 20, 1968, and have five children, Bryan Charles born September 13, 1969, Kerri Renae born September 10, 1970, Angie Janel born November 24, 1973, Marci Dione born July 11, 1975, and Daron Edward born January 28, 1981.

Maurice and Sandra Kay Starmer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Starmer, of Grand Island, were married January 17, 1970, and have two daughters, Carlie Ann born May 2, 1973, and Tennille Rae born October 4, 1976. *Submitted by Edith Lindgreen*

GARY LINDGREEN FAMILY

Gary Charles Lindgreen was born July 30, 1939 in Central City, Nebraska, the son of Charles and Edith Lindgreen. He has one brother, Maurice. He attended school at Clarks, Merrick County, Districts #50 and #25, and graduated from the Clarks High School in 1956. He served in the Army in November of 1963 to November of 1965. He was based at San Antonio, Texas. He then returned home to farm with his brother and father.

Edwardine Mae Hoback was born June 12, 1941 in Central City, Nebraska. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hoback of Central City. She has one brother, Eugene, who farms west of Central City, and three sisters, Ettagean Hillers, Karen Shonquist both of whom are living in Omaha and Joyce Metzler who is living in Denver. Edwardine

attended school at Merrick County District #38. She graduated from the Central City High School in 1959. She then attended a business college in Omaha and worked as a secretary and receptionist for a grain company until February of 1968.

Gary and Edwardine were married in April 20, 1968, at the United Presbyterian Church of Central City, Nebraska. They live on the Lindgreen farm where they farm with Gary's brother, Maurice, and also raise cattle. Their father, Charles, has retired since 1974.

Gary and Edwardine have five children. Bryan Charles was born in September 13, 1969, Kerri Renae was born September 10, 1970, Angie Janel was born November 24, 1973, Marci Dione was born July 11, 1975, and Daron Edward was born January 28, 1981.

The first four children attend the Clarks Public School. With the five children, Gary and Edwardine are involved in many activities with 4-H, piano, swimming, playing ball and church. They are members of the United Presbyterian Church of Central City where all the five children were baptized. *Submitted by Edwardine Lindgreen*

GEORGE LINDGREEN FAMILY

George Lindgreen and Jeanette (Nettie) Sporer were married in 1908 in Lincoln, Nebraska. They had five children: Virginia (Mrs. Corliss) Botts of Purdum, Nebraska, Charles (Bub), who lives near Clarks, Oletha (Mrs. Phil) Nelson of Longmont, Colorado, Deva (Mrs. Leo) Ellison of Central City, Nebraska, and Jeanette (Mrs. Dean) Wilder of California. They moved to Archer in 1911 and lived in the Archer vicinity the rest of their married life. George was a farmer and a carpenter and at one time ran a poolhall in Archer. George passed away in 1926. Nettie married Charlie Reeves in 1943 and lived on a farm east of Central City until Charlie's death in 1959. Nettie Lindgreen Reeves passed away in 1974.

LIPPINCOTT

Our home in Mead Township was reconstructed by the Roy Betts family in 1944 after an old, moved-in house slipped off the jacks and tumbled into the newly dug basement. People say, "Oh, I remember when the house fell into the basement." This is the only home we have known in thirty-four years of marriage.

One hundred sixty acres of this farm was homesteaded in 1876 by Charles Traver. On August 24, 1889, two acres in the southeast corner was deeded to the Trustees of Pierce Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church Inc. The church was located there until 1919 when the building was moved away and the ground reverted to the owners.

H.R. Lippincott, Jr. was born at Lyman, Nebraska and graduated from the Nebraska School of Agriculture at Curtis. He enlisted in the U.S. Infantry and served with the Third Army in Germany, with the Occupation Army. After his discharge in 1946 he married Rosalie Frazell of Shelton, Nebraska.

Dick's great-grandfather, J.F. Lippincott served with the seventy-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry and homesteaded in Buffalo County in 1883. His grandfather Kellums was an early settler in Scottsbluff County. Rosalie's grandfather W.W. Dubbs, a Civil War veteran who served with the 104th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, came to the banks of Prairie Creek in Hall County and took a homestead in the spring of 1873.

During the '40's, Dick's father had worked for the development of the Mid-State Project in Merrick County and knew that the Betts farm was for sale. We purchased the farm at auction and moved here in February, 1947. Highway fourteen, north of Central City, was a gravel road at that time.

Dick has been active in community affairs. Presently he is president of the Merrick County Fair Board and the County Weed District. He served on the District #33 School Board and the Mead Township Board. He is a licensed pilot and has taken many people flying aboard "Little Birdie Airline". The Central City Chamber of Commerce honored him as Outstanding Farmer in 1964. Rosalie's interests outside the home include serving on the Litzenberg Memorial County Hospital Board of Trustees, Friendship Club, and working part-time for the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The family belongs to the Fairview Methodist Church.

Our children include, Jerry, whose wife Janet is the daughter of L.T. Van Winkle, of Silver Creek. They have a daughter, Laura Joy. Jerry is a Viet Nam veteran. He is majoring in geology at the University of Nebraska. His hobby is genealogy. Randall, a Physician Assistant, is employed in Salt Lake City, Utah. He trained as a Green Beret Medic and served with the Seventh Army Parachute Team in Europe. Loren, a graduate of the University of Nebraska, is with the United States Air Force, stationed at Vance Air Force Base, Enid, Oklahoma. His wife, Lori Hula, was from West Point, Nebraska. Ronda, married Todd A. Anderson. She is a senior student at Bryan School of Nursing.

We feel fortunate to have made Merrick County our home and to have raised our children here, for the fine neighbors, churches and schools provide us with the social and spiritual nourishment we need. *Submitted by Rosalie J. Lippincott*

CHARLES OLIN LITTLE

Charles Olin Little was born December 28, 1914, on Little's Island near Havens, Nebraska. He was the son of Ernest Merle Little and Donna Withey. He had one brother: Otto Little.



Charles O. and Arnetta Little — 1968

Charles received his education in Clarks and Fremont. He was graduated from Colorado State College in Fort Collins with a BSc degree in forestry. He worked for the forest service in Colorado.

His first wife was Margaret Carroll from Woodland Park, Colorado. Her parents were "Huck" and Ruby Carroll. They were married July 11, 1942. To this union were born three children: Linda LaVonne (July 26, 1943), Dana Duncan (January 31, 1948), and Charles Olin Jr. (March 27, 1953).

Linda was six months old before Charles saw her, due to World War II. He was in the service four and one-half years; during that time he was stationed in the Pacific, Phillipine Islands, and Alaska. His men were very fond of him. He was discharged with the rank of Major.

He taught school a few years in Woodland Park, Colorado, before returning to Little's Island to farm. He purchased Little's Island. On December 30, 1958, Margaret died from cancer. She must have been a beautiful, amazing lady. Charles continued to farm and raise the children.

While serving on the ASCS committee in Central City, he met Arnetta Reeb Gregg. They were married on May 7, 1965. Dana, Gail Jeanne, and Charles ("Chick") went with them on their honeymoon to Denver, Colorado, to visit his first wife's sister, Jo Montgomery. We were *really* one big, happy family.

Charles ("Oke") and Arnetta lived on Little's Island until all of the children were graduated from high school. In January 1972 they moved to Saguache, Colorado. Their home was near the Sangre De Cristo mountain range. It was a beautiful location for the scenic drives in the mountains, which they loved. They had their little eutopia and spent their time traveling, trout fishing, enjoying the deer, and watching Dameron's Limousin cattle herd. All six of the children enjoyed visiting Saguache. Oke sold Little's Island.

On January 30, 1974, Oke died from a massive stroke. It was a great shock. He was one of the most beautiful people I have ever known. Funeral services were held from the Clarks Congregational Church on February 2, with the Reverend Edmond R. Parker officiating. Burial was in the Clarks cemetery.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Arnetta remained in Saguache for a few months and worked in the court house. In October 1974 she moved back to Merrick County where she rented a home in Central City. She worked for Clark Caley at the Bank of Clarks in Clarks, Nebraska. Around July 1975, she moved into her newly constructed home in Clarks. She continued to work for the Bank of Clarks and enjoyed traveling.

On July 8, 1980, Arnetta married Louis Middaugh from Casper, Wyoming. *Submitted by Gail Gregg Ferris*

DR. SHAW LITTLE

Dr. Little was born in Twin Creek, Wyoming in 1881 to Anna and Dana Little, where Dana was the Post Superintendent for the Union Pacific Railroad. The family moved to Polk County in 1883 and



Lippincott-Hula Wedding — June 3, 1979

homesteaded in the High Prairie District. The Little family later moved to Stromsburg where the children all graduated from High School, namely Lowell, Shaw, Merle, May and Dana Jr.

After graduation Shaw taught school in Cherry County and then attended Western Dental College in Kansas City, graduating from there and setting up practice in Clarks in 1905. In 1907, he was married to Nona Armstrong, a teacher in the Clarks school, recently graduated from Peru State Teachers College. Nona and Dr. Shaw raised four children, all graduates of Clarks High School. They were Shaw, Tom, Jack and Barbara.

The dental practice was begun in what was known as the Kokjer Building located on the corner where the Clarks State Bank is now located. The building was moved intact to a spot across the street near the light plant and fire station. At that time brother Lowell graduated from Iowa University as a Physician-Surgeon and they occupied the second floor until World War I. Dr. Lowell having been gassed badly in World War I was forced to move to a higher climate in Colorado so Dr. Shaw remained to practice in that location for sixty years.

In his early years Dr. Shaw had a number of hobbies and avocations. He played on the town baseball team, directed the choir at the Congregational Church, played a number of instruments in the Clarks Band for over twenty years, was a member of the school board seventeen years, Chief of the fire department for many years and helped in many other community programs. He was especially interested in promoting school programs and took pride in the fact he promoted music into the Clarks Schools for the first time.



Dr. Shaw Little and wife Nona

Dr. was a great believer in supporting local institutions and promoting the welfare of the local community. In 1953 he was honored as was Dr. Douglas by the Clarks Lion's Club, who promoted a community gathering for the two doctors. In 1957 Dr. and Mrs. Little held open house at their home in Clarks to celebrate their fiftieth Wedding Anniversary.

As a hunter and fisherman he was one of the best, successful at both, and, at the same time promoted safety and conservation. There is no general way to tell of his many hunting and fishing companions and how they belonged in the community as good and faithful citizens. As a booster of high school athletics over the years, Dr. Little scored high.

Dr. Little felt that any man who raised and educated a family, had the respect of the community, helped others and appreciated all that, was a success without having accumulated great wealth. No man was ever more proud of his family and appreciative of his home town. He died in 1970 at the age of eight-nine years. *Submitted by Tom Little*

CHARLES LOCK

Our great grandfather, Charles Lock, was born May 3, 1882, in East Chaldon, Dorset County, England. Charles and three of his brothers, Thomas James (Jim), John and Frank, all came to America.



Charles and Dorothy Lock Nielsen — 1913

Charles, John and Jim first homesteaded land in Hamilton County' then moved to Central City, where Jim opened a meat market. Frank lived in both Hamilton and Merrick Counties, where he was well known as "The Bird Man", because of his caged collection of rare birds.

Charles Lock and his wife, Martha, came to America with their two small sons, William and John, about 1870. William, our grandfather, died in 1905 leaving a wife, Annie Tanner Lock, and five small children named Dorothy, Cicily, Thomas, Hilda and Gladys. John died in 1902, also leaving a wife and five small children, none of whom remained in the area.

Dorothy Lock, our mother, and her husband, Charles Nielsen, purchased some of the land in Hamilton County from the estate. As a child and young woman, Dorothy spent most of her growing up years, after the death of her father and uncle, in Central City with the elder Lock's, seeking to fill the void left by their only sons' untimely deaths. Dorothy's other sisters and her brother stayed on the farm with their widowed mother in Hamilton County.

When Charles Lock died in 1919 at the age of seventy-seven, his will stated that all his property, real and personal, should be sold and after all expenses and legacies were paid there was still $100,000 to be divided among his heirs. Close to 600 acres of land in Hamilton County, purchased from the Union Pacific Railroad under the Homestead Act of 1862 for $1.25 per acre, had only cost about $800 cash. Approximately 8.3 acres in Lot 35, Merrick County, annexed in 1920 to Central City as Lock's Addition, he purchased for $1200. This valley settler, in less than 50 years, had amassed a fortune (in those times) of $100,000 from initial cash investments of approximately $2000. Besides, his family, and two succeeding generations of his family had lived on the land and off the land (rent free and fed from produce from the land).

Litzenberg Memorial Hospital was built on Lock's Addition and our mother, Dorothy Lock Nielsen, was one of the first residents to occupy the new Long Term Care wing when it was added on to the new hospital later. We, her children, are: Virginia Shively, Ileen Johnson, Doris Bodeman, Bernard and Wayne. Bernard now owns and operates Nielsen Radio and TV, situated in the old Central City Firehouse Building. Wayne and his wife, Peggy, now own Lincoln Manor Steak House and Lounge situated in the old Ratcliff Hotel. Our father's family history appears elsewhere in this book.

Our maternal great grandparents, Charles and Martha Lock, and our paternal grandparents, Paul and Elise Nielsen, all died in the same house situated in Lock's Addition. Charles and Martha Lock were members of Christ Church in Central City. *Submitted by Ileen Nielsen Johnson*

HENRY & CECELIA LOHMAN

William Lohman, the father of Henry, was born March 9, 1867, in Westphalia, Germany, and came to the United States at the age of 15 with an older sister, Marie Lohman, in 1882. His parents came later that year, and the same year purchased a farm east of Grand Island in Merrick County, along the Merrick-Hall County line. Five other children accompanied them. William Lohman married Maria Dickman at Grand Island on February 26, 1892. She was the daughter of Peter and Margaret Dickman and was born at Marne, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on May 29, 1872, and came to America with her parents at the age of twelve. Her father was born August 14, 1840, in Germany and died August 14, 1912. Her mother was born September 20, 1842, in Germany and died August 5, 1918.

William Lohman's father, John Henry Lohman, was born February 19, 1833, in Germany and died in Grand Island on February 18, 1889. His wife, Charlotte Brunhaus, was born on April 12, 1834, in Germany. William farmed with his parents until his father's death, and he and Maria continued on the farm until Charlotte's death on April 24, 1917. They were the parents of four children: Annette, Henry, Olga, and Hala.



Henry and Cecelia (Frauen) Lohman — 1957

Henry Lohman, the only son of William and Maria (Dickman) Lohman, was born at Grand Island on February 17, 1894. He grew up and attended the Lockwood School (District #1 — Merrick County) and assisted his parents on the farm until his marriage to Cecelia Frauen on October 5, 1918. His parents then retired and moved into Grand Island.

Cecelia Frauen Lohman was born in St. Margarethen, Holstein, Germany, the second daughter of Hans Jacob and Abel (Schuett) Frauen. Hans Jacob was the brother of Claus and Paul Frauen, early settlers in Merrick County in the Lockwood area.

Cecelia came to the United States in 1905 to the home of her uncle, Paul Frauen, for whom she worked as housekeeper until her marriage. Henry was a general farmer and dairyman. In the early years, most farm wives kept a flock of chickens for "pin money" and Cecelia was no exception, as she had a flock of prized Rhode Island Red chickens.

Henry lived on the old Lohman farm all of his life except the last three years when illness caused him to retire to Bauman Home. Cecelia expired February 19, 1964, and Henry died November 25, 1969. They had no children, but the lives of many children are richer for having touched the lives of Henry and Cecelia Lohman. *Submitted by Bertha Schuett*

MARLENE WIEGERT LOEN

I was born at my Grandpa and Grandma Ueckert's home on East Seedling Mile Road, on November 15, 1950. I am the second of three children. My sister, Darlene, is a secretary and my brother, Roger, farms and lives on the home place.

I remember the days when I had to help irrigate and rake hay. I learned to drive the pickup when I was very young.

I was baptized and confirmed at Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church. I also attended Sunday School.

I was a member of the Cloverleaf 4-H Club. At eight years of age I started taking piano lessons from Ardis Beckman in Grand Island.

I attended District #32 from kindergarten through the seventh grade. Then I attended Walnut Junior High School in Grand Island. After graduation from the ninth grade I went to Grand Island Senior High, graduating with the Class of 1969. Upon graduation from Grand Island Senior High, I attended Grand Island Beauty School. I have been a cosmetologist for eleven years. I am now employed at Brandeis Beauty Salon.



Lance and Marlene Loen

On May 10, 1980, I married Lance Loen. We were married in Stolley Park by Rev. Armin Vogt.

Lance's favorite sport is riding motorcycles. We have had many enjoyable weekends riding the motorcycles. *Written by Marlene Wiegert Loen*

LONG-HAYES

Daniel Hayes of County Killarney and his wife Margaret Daly of County Cork left their native Ireland and journeyed to America. They homesteaded in the Colon, Nebraska, area and later moved to Boone County (Albion, Nebraska), where they raised four sons.

Across Europe, in the then-French province of Alsace-Lorraine, young Adam Long was preparing for his trip to America. Searching for a permanent homestead, he arrived in Philadelphia and traveled across the U.S. to settle in Boone County, Nebraska. He married Katheryn Wheeling, and together they raised a family of twelve children.

The Long and Hayes families became united with the marriage of their children, Catherine C. Long and Daniel Leo Hayes in Albion, Nebraska on February 11, 1920. They lived on a ranch near St. Paul, Nebraska, and later moved to St. Edward, then Polk County, Nebraska. They settled in Clarks, Nebraska in 1945 and remained there over twenty years. They are the parents of five children.

In 1936, Mr. Hayes introduced a new type of seed corn into the rural community of Clarks. He called on local farmers, giving them samples and asking them to try this new corn. In 1937, Dan became the first Hybrid seed corn salesman in the Clarks area. In 1938, he became District Supervisor of the Rob-See-Co Seed Company of Waterloo, Nebraska, extending his area to the Colorado border. Dan and Catherine later moved to Clarks and bought the Inbody home, which still remains in the family. It was purchased by the Hayes grandson, Timothy Bittinger, and his wife Cindy.

Dan died on November 30, 1953, at the age of fifty-nine. He is buried at Calvary Cemetery in Clarks, Nebraska.

The only member of the five Hayes children to remain in Clarks is their daughter, Margaret Katheryn. (Mrs. Vinson A. Bittinger.) All five Hayes children, graduates of the Clarks High School, are spread throughout the country. Don Hayes and his wife Ardith reside in Osceola. They are parents of five children. He continues to maintain the home place in Polk County and is a prominent area cattle-feeder. Mary Ann Hayes Condon lives in Spokane, Washington, with her four children and is a professional nurse. Gene Hayes and his wife Phyllis reside in Wheatland, Wyoming. They are parents of five children. Gene is the president of the Stockgrowers National Bank. Jerry Hayes is an electrician working at Eastern Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington.

Catherine Long Hayes left Clarks in 1954 after the death of her husband, Dan, and was on the staff of a home for boys in Spokane, Washington for eight years. Later she took the position of "House-mother" at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. She retired in June, 1975, and presently lives with her son Jerry in Ellensburg, Washington.

She is the grandmother of nineteen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

HOWARD LOVEJOY FAMILY

Howard was born in Merrick County on March 23, 1926, to Arthur and Gladys Olson Lovejoy. He was an only child. He attended District #8 and the Central City High School, graduating in 1943. In 1947 he married Ila Mae Kuhn, the daughter of George and Bertha Leeson Kuhn. She was born July 10, 1929, in Merrick County.

Howard worked for the Hord Lumber Yard, then for Wetzel Distributing, The Donald Company, and Lammert Transfer in Grand Island before moving to California in October of 1963. He worked for two years for Ennis Business Forms as a truck driver. He was laid off in 1965. He then went to work for ThunderBird Boat Products. He drove a truck for them until he became disabled in March of 1979.

Ila Mae worked as a Nurses' Aide for the Paso Robles Nursing Home while in California.

They returned to Central City in October of 1979, where they bought a home.



Howard and Ila Mae Lovejoy

They are the parents of seven children. Three daughters, Mrs. Kenneth (Carolyn) Kohl of Central City, Nebraska, Mrs. David A. (Vicki) Thomas of Germany and Mrs. Edward (Linda) Barnett of Brenton, West Virginia. Four sons, Edward of Central City, Nebraska, and Randy at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. Two sons are deceased. Chester Howard passed away September 19, 1951. Daryl Gayle passed away June 27, 1954. They have thirteen grandchildren. Also, they have nine step-grandchildren. They also have six step-great-grandchildren. *Submitted by Ila Lovejoy*

THOMAS & EMMA LUCAS

Thomas Martin Lucas and Emma Elizabeth Wetterer were married at Central City August 1, 1912 attended by Emma's brother, Wm. C. Wetterer and her uncle, Peter A. Sattler.

Thomas, the son of Captain (Civil War) Thomas and Ruth Martin Lucas was born in Rices Landing, Pennsylvania, October 7, 1880. The family including Tom's half-sisters, Emma Lucas Gregg and Annie Lucas Lindley and his half-brother, Charles W. (Stub) Lucas came to Central City when Tom was a young boy. Tom graduated from Central City High School in 1896 and received degrees from Nebraska Central College in 1903 and 1907. He also attended the University of Nebraska. In 1912 he took a homestead near Thedford, Nebraska.

Emma E. Wetterer was born March 3, 1890, the daughter of Louis and Elizabeth Sattler Wetterer, who were early pioneers in the Shell Creek, Nebraska area. The family moved to Central City in about 1894 where Louis Wetterer and Peter A. Sattler were partners in a Mercantile store. Louis died August 20, 1896 and Elizabeth died March 5, 1897 leaving four small children, Rose, Emma, Lillie, who later married A.C. Eichberg and William C., who then made their home with their uncle, Peter A. Sattler and his father. Peter later married Ruth Lindley who helped him care for the children. Emma graduated from Central City High School in 1909.

After their marriage Tom took his bride to his homestead where they lived in a sod house and he taught school and they proved up on the homestead, later acquiring a farm on the Loup River near Thedford. After selling the farm in the early 1920's they lived several places including Missouri Valley, Iowa where they operated a Variety Store. It was there that Tom was in a train accident and both legs were amputated above the ankle. In 1928 they moved back to Central City. Tom worked for the Omaha Cold Storage and in spite of his handicap and with the help of his wife managed to make a living for his family. At the time of his death he was County Judge of Merrick County, a position he had also held as a young man. Tom and Emma were killed at a railroad crossing in Central City in February 1938 in a car train accident. They are buried alongside Tom's parents in the Central City Cemetery.

Their children are Elizabeth (Betty) married to Gerald Osborn, Ruth Jean Lucas Sprouse, Mary Lou who died at age of five years, Thomas Lucas and Robert C. Lucas. Betty's children are Patricia Louise Williams and Ruth Joan Wills. Ruth married Lee Sprouse and has no children. Thomas married Doris Reed and their children are Monica Lee Kolita, Kathy Chisholm, Joe, Danny, David and Charles. Robert C. married Carol and their children are Leslie Ruth, Laurie and Andrew. *Submitted by Betty Lucas Osborn*

LUDINGTON

In 1873, John W. Ludington came to Merrick County. He located a homestead on Section 7, Township 15, Range 8 in Merrick County. He returned to his home at Adel, Iowa.

In 1874, he and his wife, Rebecca, and two children, Luella and Elizabeth, came to Merrick County in a covered wagon. The trip took two weeks. They crossed the Missouri River on the ice. Grandmother was somewhat afraid as her father, John Newman, had nearly lost his life while crossing a few years before. But, while they were waiting and talking about crossing, a team and wagon with a heavy load went around them and safely crossed, so they crossed over without fear.

When they came to Columbus, grandfather went into a store to do some trading. While he was in the store, some Indians came up and looked into the wagon. The team became frightened and started to run, but some men stopped them. When they came to the Loup River bridge at Columbus, a large gorge had formed. Grandfather said, "We must cross now because we can't afford to wait until spring." While crossing, the bridge began shaking. The team became frightened and ran. When they were across, they looked back and saw the bridge falling into the river.



Mr. and Mrs. John Wesley Ludington

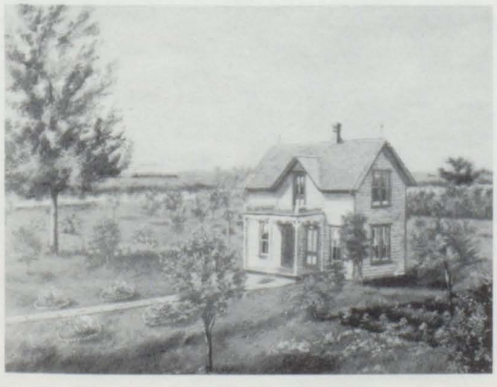
When they came near Lone Tree, Grandfather was out gathering firewood. Some longhorn cattle saw him. They took after him. He ran and dived under the wagon in the nick of time. Grandmother and children stayed in Lone Tree with friends while grandfather built a one-room house, but grandmother caught a ride and came to their home. There, with the help of a midwife, their third child, Kate, was born.

In 1877, Grandfather put in a cable ferry. Some of the businessmen purchased the cable and gave it to him for building the ferry. The ferry was in operation for six years. They hauled all kinds of traffic. Some of the early homes in Howard and Nance County had their lumber and supplies hauled on the ferry.

About 1879, when Nance County was opened up, some men from Fullerton came and had my grandfather help build and put a ferry in operation near Fullerton. It was the spring of the year. Grandmother and a hired man were running the ferry. A trail herd came to cross the river. The river was high. Grandmother showed them where to cross. When the cattle came into the river, they began milling around and were being swept downstream. The cowboys were unable to stop them from milling. Grandmother told the trail boss to catch a calf and when it was on the boat it began bawling. The calf's mother heard the calf and swam to the boat. The rest of the herd followed and all crossed safely. The trail boss thanked her and gave her $5.00. She would have only charged him 50¢.

When the grasshoppers came, they did not eat the cane. Grandfather put in a sorghum mill. They made up to 2,000 gallons a year. They sold it in barrels to stores in neighboring towns, and families brought in cane and took home syrup. Grandfather used to laugh about one time grandmother fed cane skimmings to the pigs. They all began squealing and wobbling around. Grandmother ran to the field and told grandfather there was something wrong with the pigs. Grandfather looked at them and said, "They are drunk and will be all right when they sober up."

After living on the homestead for eight years, they sold the farm and bought 160 acres of land on the north side of the river in the Merrick county strip. They purchased an adjoining sixty acres in Nance County.



Ludington Home on Merrick County Strip

The Lemmerman family lived there for a long time. It now belongs to the Schuberts. I was born in their house in 1903. My wife was raised on a farm in Nance County near the county line.

All of their family of six children and descendants have left Merrick County. The last to leave were the Wallace Gorby family who ran a garage in Palmer. *Submitted by Paul H. Ludington*

FRED & AGATHA LUEBBE



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Luebbe

Fred C. Luebbe was born on a farm one mile south of Worms, June 30, 1908, to Charles and Anna Horstman Luebbe. He was batpized, confirmed and married in the Zion Lutheran Church at Worms. He attended grade school in the Parochial School in Worms. Later he attended Grand Island Business College. He helped his father farm and also worked part time for L.F. Heusinger, who was manager of the Farmers Union Co-op Store in Worms. During harvest, he ran the threshing machine that his father and uncle owned.

October 6, 1933 he and Agatha M. Dammann were married in the church at Worms. They farmed for four years one and one-half miles south and west of Worms, then they farmed four years one-half north and one and one-half east of Worms. Agatha was born May 25, 1915 to Alfred and Katherine (Trina) Hinrichs Dammann, one-half north and one-half west of Worms. She had one brother, Arnold, living near Worms, on the farm that was homesteaded by his grandfather Claus Dammann. Two sisters, Hildegard Brase of Iowa and Texas, and Irene Bahensky of near Palmer. Agatha graduated from Palmer High School.

In May 1941 Fred was hired as manager of the Farmers Union Co-op Store in Worms. There were four small rooms in the back end of the building in which they were allowed to live. The store was open every week day from 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. and open nights on Monday, Thursday and Saturday nights. Also on Sundays after church. Monday and Thursday were called egg and cream nights. The eggs were candled and cream tested. They got their groceries, visited, some went to choir, some played cards at the tavern. They also had free shows for awhile. They were the silent movies and were shown on the outside of the building.

Fred had one brother Arthur, living near Worms, five sisters, Edna Luebbe, deceased, Ruth Neubert, Helen Schimmer, Evelyn Luebbe, near or in Grand Island and Esther (Elizabeth) of Sacramento, California.

Fred and Agatha had three daughters: Joan (Mrs. Bill) Braden bron February 15, 1935. Mildand Texas; June (Mrs. Quenten) Stanley born June 15, 1939, Missouri City, Texas; Vicki (Mrs. Ray) Brown born January 9, 1948, El Segundo, California. There are four grandchildren, David and Bene Braden and Matthew and Leslie Stanley.

In 1953 we took over the tavern and ran that until we sold it to John Houseleg. He took over November 1, 1976.

Fred retired from the store in 1959 when it was sold to Dean and Maxine Simonson.

The Luebbes moved into a house in December 1956. It was next to the store. The Loui Helzers had it built in 1925 and lived there. Fred passed away September 25, 1977. *Submitted by Agatha Luebbe*

WILLIAM LUEBKE FAMILY

William Luebke was born June 28, 1843 in Illinois. He grew up near Okawville, Illinois. He married Wilhelmina Kamper, who had recently emigrated to the United States from Germany. They made their home on a farm near Okawville, Illinois. Four of their children were born here. They were Anna (Luebke) Going, Herman Luebke, August Luebke and Fred Luebke.

The grass is always greener on the other side, and so William loaded his family and goods into a covered wagon and headed west. Perkins County in Nebraska was to be their new home on the wide open prairie.



William and Wilhelmina Luebke

However, after several years of dry weather and grasshoppers, the family was once more loaded into a covered wagon and they headed east. In Merrick County, several miles southeast of Palmer, Nebraska, William took a homestead. Here, two more sons were born, Martin Luebke, a Lutheran school teacher, and Otto Luebke, who became a barber and lived and worked in Columbus, Nebraska for many years.

William and Wilhelmina spent their retirement years in Palmer in a home near their son, August. They passed away within two days of each other, on January 18 and 20, 1930, and are buried in the Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery at Worms. *Submitted by Edmund Luebke*

AUGUST LUEBKE FAMILY

August Luebke was born August 21, 1874, in Grand Prairie, Illinois. He was the son of William and Wilhelmina (Kamper) Luebke, who homesteaded in Merrick County. August came to Nebraska as a young boy with his parents in a covered wagon. He grew up on a farm several miles southeast of Palmer, Nebraska. On July 25, 1900, he was united in marriage to Martha Dammann.

Martha was born in Merrick County on September 9, 1882, and was the daughter of Claus and Minnie (Wagner) Dammann. Her father was a pioneer and original homesteader in the Worms area. He was also one of the original members of Zion Lutheran Church at Worms.

They resided on a farm a few miles west of Worms until Martha's ill health forced them to move into Palmer about 1912. Here, August built a new home for his family and did other carpenter work. First, with a Model T Ford truck and later a Reo Speedwagon, August carried cream and butter from Palmer to Grand Island and brought produce back to Palmer for the merchants. This led to a job at the Leffelbein Feed Store and Cream Station. In later years, he worked at the S.A. Foster lumber yard.

August and Martha were the parents of three children. Armin Luebke was born April 25, 1901, and married Florence Miller of Palmer. They lived on the farm where his parents had lived. They had four children, Geraldine Sass of Fremont, Harold of St. Libory, Kenneth of Millard, and Kathryn Sass of Grand Island. Armin passed away October 2, 1955, and his wife Florence died on May 11, 1971. They are buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Palmer.

Hilda Luebke was born March 3, 1905, and taught school until her marriage to Paul Praeuner of Battle Creek, Nebraska. They lived at Battle Creek all their married life, and had three children, Lawrence of Battle Creek, Caroline Klemz of Alaska, and Marvin also of Battle Creek. Hilda passed away on May 3, 1971, and is buried at Battle Creek.

Edmund Luebke was born March 2, 1908, graduated from St. John's School in Palmer, and earned his Lutheran Teachers diploma from Concordia Teachers College. He also attended Omaha U and Wayne State College, and taught in Lutheran Schools for forty-three years. He married Verona Schulenberg of Hooper, Nebraska, and they had two daughters, Gwen Wendorf of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, and Marlene Johnson of West Point, Nebraska. Ed and Verona are now retired and living in West Point, Nebraska.



August and Martha Luebke — children, Hilda and Armin

August and Martha Luebke lived long and full lives, celebrating their sixtieth Wedding Anniversary on July 25, 1960. August passed away on April 21, 1961 and Martha died on February 27, 1962. They are both buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Palmer. *Submitted by Edmund Luebke*

JOHN & JANE LUMADUE

(L'HOMMEDIEU, MAN OF GOD)

John Wesley Lumadue arrived in Clarks on April 10, 1871. He had traveled by covered wagon from Buda, Bureau County, Illinois. He had served four years in the Rebellion, a member of the Illinois Infantry Volunteers, Company Twelve. After two years of farming he was anxious to go west to obtain a soldier's homestead. His wife remained in Illinois until he was settled in Nebraska, where he located six miles northwest of the present town in Clarks. At that time the area was a barren tract of land without trees, shrubbery or grass. He paid 25¢ for a telegraph pole which he put his wagon cover on to mark the location of his land. He then began to build a house hauling the lumber from Columbus. His little house measured 16′ X 20′. He made built-in furniture such as trundle beds and tables. Most of his neighbors lived in sod houses. John broke sixty acres of land and plowed fire breaks because prairie fires were one of the terrors of the settlers. Many times he had his eyebrows and hair singed from close contact with fire while plowing to save someone's home.



J. W. Lumadue Family
Front l-r — J. W., Jane, Charles. **Back l-r** — Jeanette, Emma, Anna, Myrtie and Julia.

Mrs. John Lumadue (Jane) arrived by train in Clarks in 1872 with two small daughters, three year old Anna and one year old Emma. She recalled that the Indians were a terror to the housewives. When their husbands were away the red men would peek into the window and point at their face and say "pale face". The following is a story written by Mrs. Lumadue: "I shall never forget the night my man, along with others, went to Clarks to organize the School District. I had gone to bed with our two small girls and was awakened by the sound of a bugle and noises in the distance. I was so frightened I could hear my heartbeat, and I never moved. Finally when my husband came home I asked him if he had seen or heard anything. He said "No". The next day the Pawnee told us the Sioux had come down from the north and stolen some squaws and ponies."

The Lumadue's cow was called Cherokee because it came from the reservation. Jane churned the cream in a quart jar so that she could write to her mother in Illinois and tell her they had butter for their bread. Antelope, deer, wolves and mountain lion roamed the prairie.

John planted trees and during the time when other settlers were returning east, discouraged, he recorded, "I believe there is a future here". In later years, he also handled stock, renting pasture land to cattlemen who drove their herds from York County. He also was engaged in the registered Angus business. John and Jane Lumadue had three other daughters and one son born on the ranch northwest of Clarks. All of their children were: Anna (Mrs. John Beck, Clarks), Emma (Mrs. George Barker, York), Nettie (Mrs. J.C. Inbody, Clarks), Charles W. Lumadue (Lincoln and Central City), Myrtie (Mrs. Wm. Grant. Clarks), Julia (Mrs. William Williams, Clarks). *Submitted by Gae Williams Beckstrom*

LUTES

Robert James Lutes, born 1849 in Carrell County, Ohio (son of John Lutes (1801) (Canada) and Mary Malin (1809) (Virginia); married Melissa Belville (1852) in 1875 in Washington County, Iowa. They farmed in Marion Township south of Washington, Iowa within a neighborhood known as the "Shiloh District".

Born to Robert and Melissa in Washington County, were Stella (Ogden-Swanson) 1876; Winnie (Skow) 1878 and Ralph (1881). The family moved to a farm five and one-half miles east of Chapman, (Bice Place) in 1884. Robert accompanied the livestock by rail, riding in the stock car. In 1887, daughter Hester (Corcilius) was born. The family farmed until 1908 when Melissa died. Robert's poor health and Melissa's death prompted moving to Chapman, three and one-half miles away. He died in 1916. Both, are buried in the Chapman Cemetery.

Ralph Lutes and Teresa Farrell, daughter of Thomas Farrell, were married 1911 at St. Michaels, Central City. They initially farmed north of Central City where Donald was born. Later they moved into Central City where Inez (Volkman) was born. Donald and Inez began there schooling at North Ward.

The family moved to the original Lutes farm east of Chapman (three and one-half miles) after the death of Ralph's father. Here, the usual crops of that period — wheat, corn, oats were grown. The farm situated near highway 30 and UPRR was a target for many transient people during depression years, to builtin handouts or sleep a night in the haymow. Donald and Inez rode a pony double to District 39 and the pony was released to return home, on his



Mr. and Mrs. Donald P. Lutes



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Lutes



Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne O. Volkman

own. In 1928, son Thomas Robert (Bob) was born. He attended District #39, then moved with the family to Central City in 1937.

The family enjoyed the usual activities then popular; baseball, neighborhood card parties, hunting, dancing and activities at the old St. Michael's Parish Hall and with the 'Ford' club. Ice skating on the Platte River and neighborhood ponds in the wintertime.

Donald and Inez were graduated from Chapman High School. Both attended Nebraska Central College and taught in rural schools — Donald at District #29 and Inez at #3 and #8.

Donald, was a pilot in the Air Force during World War II. He married Viola Jonson (Gray) in 1945 and lived in Colorado Springs. He worked for Loretto Heights College, Denver; Business Officer, Rangely College and recently for a Boulder Development Firm. They reside in retirement near Lafayette, Colorado. Daughter Sandra Lee and family reside in Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

Inez married Dwayne O. Volkman at St. Michaels in 1940 and lived in various points in Nebraska and Washington D.C. In 1951, the family moved to Denver where Inez taught for several years. Their five children reside in the Metro-Denver area.

Bob attended Central City Schools, Doane College and served in the Navy during World War II. In 1956, the family moved to Colorado. Bob served as Vice President of Loretto Heights College and is presently Vice President, Administration, Community College of Denver. The four children of Bob and the former Ruth Dexter, reside in the Metro-Denver area.

Teresa Lutes died in 1944; Ralph in 1958 and both are buried in Central City Cemetery. *Submitted by Donald P. Lutes*

JOHN AND MARY MACHAMER

Little is known about my grandfather and grandmother's early life. John W. Machamer came from Rockford, Illinois, and settled in Stromsburg, Nebraska. He was a traveling salesman, presumably selling dry goods and men's clothing. He met and married Mary E. Titman who lived in Aurora, Nebraska. She originally came from New Jersey.

The couple moved to Central City, and operated a prosperous dry goods and clothing store for many years. They were active in Eastern Star and Masonic work. John Machamer served as mayor of Central City for many years. Mrs. Machamer passed away in July of 1939. Mr. Machamer passed on in February 1947, at the age of seventy-seven years. Both are buried in the Central City Cemetery.

My mother, Lela, was born in March 1890. She was educated in Central City schools and then in St. Mary's School in Rockford, Illinois. She married Ralph L. Montgomery of Omaha, who traveled for several men's clothing manufacturer's and lived in the house at 1822 Seventeenth Avenue, where my sister Martha E. and I were reared and educated in the Central City Schools. Lela B. passed away in March 1971, and was buried in Central City beside her parents. R.L. Montgomery passed on at the age of sixty-seven in December 1956, in Denver.

My sister Martha and her husband live in Boise, Idaho. She is employed by the State of Idaho, has two sons, John and Steven Vieregg of Houston, Texas and Maryland, respectively, and six grandchildren.

I married the former Imogene Erickson of Central City. She is employed by the U.S. Forest Service in Coeur d Alene, Idaho. I am a veteran of World War II as an airplane pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps. I worked for the Civil Service with the Bureau of Reclamation in the state of Washington and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on irrigation projects and various dam projects on the Snake River in Washington and the Kootenai River at Libby, Montana. We had two daughters: Connie Henjim, deceased, of Kennewick, Washington, and Marcia Flaten of Pasco, Washington. A son, John W. lives at St. Maries, Idaho.

We enjoy our six grandchildren and recreation that is offered in the Coeur d Alene area. *Submitted by John M. Montgomery*

CHARLES MAGNUSON FAMILY

Charles Magnuson was born June 22, 1845 in Pung, Stengardshult, Sweden. He emigrated to the United States in 1869, and became a naturalized citizen in Chicago, Illinois, March 23, 1877. After coming to America he worked as a railroad car painter in Chicago, until he contracted lead poisoning from the paint.

Anna Gustava Johansson was born in Gyttorp, Nora, Sweden, on January 26, 1845, and emigrated to the United States in 1873. She received her education in Sweden, and when she came to this country, employement had been arranged for her as domestic help with a well-to-do family in New York City.



Anna and Charles Magnuson

Charles and Anna were married October 7, 1876, at Chicago, Illinois. To this union, five children were born. The two girls, Elizabeth and Ester, died as children from diphtheria. Seth Simeon was the station agent for the Union Pacific Railroad in Orin, Wyoming, when he died. A mad man was shooting up the town, so Seth ran to the street to rescue a little child and was caught in the line of fire. David Emanuel was a banker in Chapman for forty-six years, and John Samuel farmed northwest of Chapman.

In March of 1885, the family moved from Chicago to Chapman, having made arrangements with a man by the name of John G. Nordgren to trade their house in Chicago for a 160-acre farm in Prairie Creek township, Range 14, Township 13, Section 8, six and one-half miles northwest of town. (John Nordgren was instrumental in helping people of Swedish ancestry to settle in Hamilton County). The family lived in the school house the first summer, while the original house was being renovated. They spent twenty-five happy years here until they moved to Aurora in 1910. Sam remained on the farm.

Charles and Anna were charter members of Bethany Swedish Mission Church in Chicago, and in 1904 they united with Prairie Creek Baptist Church. On moving to Aurora, they joined the Swedish Mission church there. Charles died January 17, 1922, at the Aurora Hospital. Anna then had a small house built next to David's in Chapman, and resided there until she was no longer able to stay alone. She then lived with David and family until her death on March 11, 1939. Anna and Charles are both buried in Prairie Creek Cemetery. *Submitted by Sylvia Magnuson Caruthers*

MAGNUSON-OGDEN

In 1845, in Sweden, both my paternal grandparents, Charles (Claes) Magnuson and Anna Johansson were born. Years later fate brought them together in Chicago where they fell in love and married. Seth was born in 1879, David in 1882, and Sam in 1884. They must have decided that the city was not for raising boys, because in 1885, they moved onto a farm in Prairie Creek township. Here were spent the "growing years" for my father David and his brothers. He graduated from District #28, called Common School, in 1902. The following year he was granted a teacher's certificate and taught in his home school, also in #26 and 32.

In June 1910, my grandparents moved to Aurora to be among Swedish friends. Many Sundays we



Ella Ogden in Chapman home

crossed the Platte River and tried out the hills of Hamilton County, to visit them. Sometimes we made the hills and sometimes we failed. In that case, one slowly backed down and tried again — a nervous time. Grandpa died on January 17, 1922 in an Aurora hospital. Grandma moved into a home built for her next to my parents: in later years she lived with my family until her death at the age of ninety-four on February 26, 1939. Both are buried in the Prairie Creek Cemetery.

On April 9, 1854, at Rockford, Illinois, my other grandfather, James Mathew Ogden, was born. He married Charry Ellen Sutton, born September 8, 1858, near Chandlersville, Illinois. Merrick County lured them also; Chapman became their first and only home. Their children were my mother, Ethel Ceola, and Ernest Sutton; one child died in infancy. Grandmother's photography hobby has provided most of our pictorial family history. She directed the Baptist Church Choir for seventeen years and was the Ladies Aid Society president for fourteen years. She died when I was only three and she was only fifty-five on April 16, 1914. Both grandparents were charter members of Chapman First Baptist Church and grandpa was an "ordained deacon". One of my fondest memories is of the times I sat on his lap in his big Morris chair and listened to the radio with his ear-phones. He died on May 10, 1926; both are buried in Chapman Cemetery.

David and Ethel were married on February 26, 1908, and became my loving parents on July 22, 1911. In 1920, on April 5, my little sister Sylvia Ellen was born, and I was so proud of her! I joined Camp Fire Girls and junior and senior bands. There were twelve in my graduating class in 1928.

Forty-six years of service in Chapman State Bank and Credit Association ended in 1952 with my father's resignation. He was always an active Baptist layman and espoused whatever was good for the community, as did my mother. In 1958 they observed their golden wedding anniversary. On March 3, 1969, my father died peacefully at home and my mother on December 10, 1972, twelve days before her ninety-second birthday. Both are buried in Chapman Cemetery. *Submitted by Gladys Ceola Magnuson Vaughan*

DAVID MAGNUSON FAMILY

David Emanuel Magnuson was born in Chicago, Illinois, on October 13, 1885, to Charles and Anna Johansson Magnuson. In the spring of 1885 he came with his parents to Chapman, where he grew up on the family farm, Range 14, Township 13, Section 8, in Prairie Creek township northwest of Chapman.

After completing elementary school in District #28 and graduating in 1902, David attended Fremont Normal College and received a teaching certificate. He taught the last four months of the 1903-04 school year at District #26 for the large sum of $40.00 per month. He taught the next two years at District #32. The average salary for men in 1906 was $53.86 and for women $32.58.

In 1906, David joined the Chapman State Bank as cashier. He later served as secretary-treasurer of the Chapman Cooperative Credit Association until he retired in 1952. He then did income tax work and maintained a private insurance business until 1962. His hobbies were collecting stamps and coins, and



Ethel and David Magnuson — 1958

he was an avid reader. He had a special love and concern for all children, and he was known as "Uncle Dave" to all the kids in town.

Ethel Ceolia Ogden was born in Oakford, Illinois, on December 22, 1880, to James and Charry Ellen (Sutton) Ogden and moved to Chapman in 1883. She and Rose Corcilius were the only members of the Class of 1898, the first tenth-grade graduation from the Chapman schools. Ethel had one year at Grand Island Baptist College. She learned to play the piano and the organ, and gave lessons in both.

On February 26, 1908, Ethel and David were united in marriage. Both were faithful and dedicated members of the First Baptist Church for all their lives. They served in all departments of the church, and their lives were an inspiration to all. They were both members of Laura Mae Chapter #251 of the Order of Eastern Star, and Ethel received her fifty-year pin in 1971. David was also a member of Friendship Lodge #239 and of the Royal Arch Masons. When Chapman celebrated the Nebraska Centennial in 1967, Ethel and David were honored as king and queen of senior citizens. Laura Cahow and Guy Rice were honored as attendants. The Magnusons celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1958.

Their children are Gladys Ceolia and Sylvia Ellen. Gladys was born July 22, 1911, and is married to Allen Charles Vaughan, formerly of Guide Rock, Nebraska. Sylvia was born April 5, 1920, and is married to Col. (Ret.) Marion Forrest Caruthers, formerly of Beatrice, Nebraska. They had five grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. David died March 3, 1969, at home and Ethel died December 10, 1972, at Lakeview Nursing Home in Grand Island. They are buried in the Chapman Cemetery. *Submitted by Sylvia Magnuson Caruthers*

PAUL E. MAGNUSON

Paul E. Magnuson, son of J.S. (Sam) and Anna (Wiser) Magnuson was born on the family farm in Prairie Creek Township, six and one-half miles northwest of Chapman on March 13, 1920. He was the only boy in a family of eight children. He attended grade school in District #28, and graduated from Chapman High School in 1938.

Growing up during the lean "Dirty Thirties", he became disenchanted with the farm and took employment with the Union Pacific Railroad in 1939.

In 1942, he was drafted into the Army and served three and one-half years. His overseas duty was in the ETO with the 100th Infantry Division. Four months of that time, he was a prisoner of war in Germany. He received the following decorations and awards: The American Campaign Medal; European, African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars for the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns; Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and an Oakleaf Cluster; World War II Victory Medal; Combat Infantry Badge; and the Good Conduct Medal.

Upon returning to civilian life, he returned to his job with the railroad and stayed with it until retiring in 1980. The last eighteen years of that service was in a supervisory capacity in the Signal Department stationed at Grand Island, but worked in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah.

In 1949, he was united in marriage to Evelyn Gillham Scott, daughter of Orean and Nancy Gillham. Evelyn was born and raised in the Archer community and attended Archer Schools. She worked at the Quaker Oats Ordinance Plant during World War II, and later for Silas Mason during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, for a total of fifteen years. While raising their family, she worked five years as an "Avon Lady". Paul belongs to the American Legion and U.P. Oldtimers, and Evelyn, the U.P. Oldtimers Auxiliary. They are both members of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Grand Island.



Paul and Evelyn Magnuson — 1980

Their three children are: Nancy Slattery of Grand Island, Samuel of Casper, Wyoming and Stephen, also of Casper, Wyoming. Two children from previous marriages are John Magnuson of Port Orchard, Washington, and Evelyn's daughter, Donna Irwin of Grand Island. They have nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. *Submitted by Paul E. Magnuson*

SAM MAGNUSON FAMILY

J.S. (Sam) Magnuson was born in Chicago, Illinois, October 19, 1884 to Charles and Anna Johansson Magnuson. His father had emigrated from Sweden in 1869, and his mother emigrated in 1873. At the age of six months, he came with his family from Chicago to a Merrick County farm located northwest of Chapman. He attended District #28 School, a quarter mile from their home, and the Swedish Mission Church which met in a school house several miles away.

Anna Mae Wiser was born August 3, 1892 to Stephen Lewis and Clara Belle (Dye) Wiser at their farm home a half mile west of the Magnuson farm. She also attended District #28 School and High School in Central City. Sam courted Anna via the horse and buggy and on November 24, 1910, they were married at the Wiser home. They lived thirty-seven years of their married life on the Magnuson farm where they raised their family of eight children, who all attended District #28 School too.



Sam and Anna Magnuson — 1910

Their children are: Helen Mauer, Oakland, California; Violet Dickerson and Bonnie Rice, both deceased; Paul E. Magnuson, Grand Island, Nebraska; Lorraine Hanway, Salinas, California; Barbara Ogden, Chapman, Nebraska; Gloria Nelsen, Norfolk, Nebraska; Jacquelin Sampson, Central City, Nebraska.

Sam served many years on the District #28 School Board, Prairie Creek township Board, and as Precinct Committeeman of the Triple A. They both belonged to the Prairie Creek Baptist Church where they gave many years of faithful service, and later to the First Baptist Church of Central City. In Anna's early married life, homemaking and child rearing in addition to her church work were her first priorities. In later years, she was active in the Prairie Creek Improvement Club, Central City Women's Club, and the Litzenberg Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Sam and Anna celebrated their fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in 1960.

In January 1947, Sam retired from active farming and moved his family to Central City. He was later employed by the Hord Lumber Co. for a number of years. Anna died May 16, 1963, and Sam died December 15, 1972.

Sam's first motorized vehicle was a 1908 Kiblimger Motor Buggy, ordered from and delivered by the factory for $425. He drove a team of horses with a lumber wagon six and one-half miles to the UPRR Depot at Chapman to pick up his auto which had come in — crated — by Railroad Freight. After it was assembled, he couldn't get it started. Uncle Stephen Wiser came to the rescue — he was the automotive technician in the family. It turned out that a gasket on the intake manifold was leaky. After the fault was corrected, it started right off. No doubt there was great joy after all the trials and tribulations when that two-lunger popped off. It could travel twenty-five miles per hour. There were no county licenses then, but it carried a State License Plate #3111. Since it was a novelty, people would come out to the road from their farm homes to watch him go by. Sam drove this auto until about 1912. *Submitted by Barbara Ogden*

JOHN MANGELSEN FAMILY

John C. Mangelsen was born August 19, 1902, in Grand Island, the son of Chris and Mary (Windolph) Mangelsen. Brothers and sisters were Paul, Charles, Oscar, Rudolph, Rose, Clara, Mary, and Albert.

John's parents moved to Gage Valley in 1906, buying a farm two miles south of Palmer. After completing eighth grade, John became a farm laborer, working several years for Bill Fechtner. He later worked throughout Nebraska as a construction worker, and attended the Coyne Electrical School in Chicago before marrying Valborg, "Bobbie", Jensen, January 22, 1931, in Kronborg.

Valborg, the daughter of Edward and Johanna (Andersen) Jensen, was born July 14, 1910, in Hamilton County. After Valborg's mother died during the flu epidemic in 1918, her father and sister, Elvine, moved to Kronborg where her father built and operated a grocery store until 1925 when the family moved to St. Paul. After graduating from St. Paul in 1930, Valborg did housework until her marriage.

During their weekend honeymoon in Omaha, it became obvious "Bobbie" had the mumps! While she was convalescing, John became the victim of smallpox and was admitted to the Pest House, a three-story building used to care for people with contagious diseases. Upon John's dismissal, Bobbie was admitted with smallpox. In March, they set up housekeeping in Omaha close to the stockyards where John was employed.



John Mangelsen Family

In December, 1931, John and Bobbie moved to a farm near Wathena, Kansas, an area known for rattlesnakes. It was not uncommon for John to plow up rattlesnakes with his walking plow.

Their children, Lorraine (June 30, 1932), John Ed (July 30, 1933), and Albert Dean (October 10, 1934) were born in Kansas.

The family moved back to Hamilton County in 1937, and in 1938 moved to a farm one and one-half miles west of Clarks. While there, John pledged his loyalty to farming with horses and nixed the idea of farming with a tractor. Imagine the surprised family when he returned home from a sale one day with a Farmall F-12 tractor! Besides farming, John raised hogs, cattle, and milked as high as twenty-five cows by hand with the family's help. Bobbie always enjoyed gardening, canning, and cooking. She was often complimented on her prune cake, scalloped potatoes, and home canned vegetable soup.

In 1947, they moved to the Roy Inbody farm near Pierce Chapel, where John Ed attended Pleasant Hill School, and later helped his father. He enjoys swimming and bowling.

Albert graduated from Clarks in 1952, and after graduating from the University of Nebraska, joined the Naval Air Corps. Since his discharge in 1963, he has been employed by the U.S. State Department as a Diplomatic Courier. Albert and Anneliese Eleam were married in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1968, and presently live in Frankfurt.

Lorraine married Harold Dexter in 1953, and resides in Central City.

John and Bobbie moved onto their own eighty acre farm located one and one-half miles north of District #50 in 1976. Bobbie and John Ed still make their home there.

John C. Mangelsen passed away September 25, 1977, and is buried at Pierce Chapel Cemetery. *Submitted by Lorraine Dexter*

GEORGE & OLLIE MANNING

George C. Manning was born at Eureka, Illinois, July 1, 1867. He married Ollie S. Miller, February 10, 1891, near Horace, Illinois. Ollie was born November 15, 1870 at Middletown, Indiana. Her father, Levi R. Miller, served in the Civil War from 1861 to 1865. In later years, his grandson, Leroy G. Manning, was given his rain-soaked Bible carried during the war. George and Ollie's three children, Lola, Leon, and Leroy, were born near Paris, Illinois. During the parents' early married life they farmed in Illinois. In 1907, they moved on a farm near Wood River, Nebraska, and in 1914 located in Merrick County.

As young children, they were baptized in the Methodist faith and later transferred their membership to the Central City Methodist Church. Following the death of her husband, George, August 9, 1936, Ollie made her home in Chapman. She was a charter member of Women's Society of Christian Service at the Chapman Methodist Church, and was awarded a life membership pin honoring her work through the years. Her death occurred September 10, 1958. *Submitted by Leroy G. Manning*



George and Ollie Manning

LEROY & FAYE MANNING

In the year of 1907, Leroy G. Manning came to Hall County from Paris, Illinois, where he was born on December 16, 1903, the youngest of three children of George C. and Ollie S. Manning. He began his rural school education near Wood River, Nebraska. In 1914, the family located in Merrick County on a farm near Central City.

Leroy and Faye Reeves were married on May 12, 1925, at the farm home of her mother, Helena Troh Reeves. The couple established a home on a farm near Central City, where on October 15, 1926, their first child, Lucille Mae was born. Upon the death of Faye's sister, Maude Reeves Green, Maude's infant son, Donald Clarence Green, came to live in their home. He was born February 7, 1929, and Faye and Leroy raised him as their own child.

On March 1, 1931, the Mannings purchased and moved to the Van Sickle Farm, where they have continued to reside. The original owner purchased the land in 1880 from the Union Pacific Railroad Comapny.



Leroy and Faye Manning

A second daughter, Rosemary Maxine, was born on January 26, 1933. The three children attended rural school at District #39, the same school their mother had attended as a child. After receiving their respective college educations, they were married and reared families.

Lucille married Gale Erlewine at the First Baptist Church at Chapman, June 19, 1948. They have three sons.

December 1, 1950, Donald enlisted in the United States Air Force and was discharged in October 1954. On September 14, 1951, he and Marilyn Reimer were united in marriage at the Methodist Church, Salt Lake City, Utah, and have a son and a daughter. Rosemary and Keith Erlewine were married on June 5, 1954, at the First Baptist Church at Chapman, and have two sons and a daughter.

Faye and Leroy celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with friends and relatives in attendance in June 1975, at the Chapman Baptist Church. Having their children, their spouses, and eight grandchildren present was a great joy for them.

Of lasting pride to the Mannings is the shelterbelt of trees planted in 1936, and certified at that time as one of the fourteen Charter Tree Farms of Nebraska. The trees were re-certified in 1979.

During the year of 1964, Leroy and Faye received the "Merrick County Soil and Water Conservation District Award." For many years, Faye has enjoyed capturing the landscape with oil on canvas. Maintaining a beautiful farmstead and the cultivation of gardens and flowers has been a source of satisfaction to both Leroy and Faye. The year of 1978 Faye received the State Award of Merit Mother. The purpose of the Association is to strengthen the moral and spiritual foundation of the home.

They have each served in various capacities as members of the Chapman Baptist Church over the past fifty-five years. As neighbors and active members of the community, they have shown their concern for others. They feel their Christian faith has added greatly to their joy of living. *Submitted by Rosemary Manning Erlewine*

GLADYS LAMBERT MARCY

I, Gladys Irene Lambert Marcy, was born at Palmer, Nebraska, on a farm, to Dollie May McMahon Loucks and Quiznee Lambert. We moved to another farm in Nance County, Fullerton, Nebraska when I was in the sixth grade. I graduated from the Fullerton High School fifty years ago this May 1981.

During high school I stayed with and helped VanTries Trotter in the dress shop and her home. I stayed there a year after graduating to help with VanTries's Mother, then I moved to Lincoln, Nebraska. There I helped in private homes several years and finally worked for the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company as an operator, then in the office of the traffic Department, under Mr. Royal Brewster and Mr. Donnelly, for five years.

In August 1940 I was married to Orrin J. Marcy. We went directly to Orono, Maine where Orrin was an instructor at the University of Maine. The summer of 1941 Orrin was on a potato survey in the northern part of Maine. I traveled with him picking blueberries and wild fruit, canning them as we went along, wherever we could find a cabin.

The summer of 1942 we drove out to his parents ranch at Hay Springs, Nebraska. Orrin spent the summer helping his dad on the ranch. In the fall we went back to Maine, but in November 1942 Orrin went into the army serving as an officer of the field artillery. We were moved from pillar to post for almost four years, after which Orrin decided not to go back to teaching but to come out and ranch and farm with his dad. We have remained here for thirty-five years.

Our youngest son Dennis Dean is helping his Dad full time now on our ranch. Our oldest son, Douglas Clark has one son, Nathan Jay, born July 23, 1975. Douglas is a Western artist, lives not far from us, so helps his Dad and brother Dennis whenever needed. He also takes his drawings to many art shows. *Written by Gladys L. Marcy*

WILLIAM AND MARY MARSH

Born November 8, 1832, near Ridgetown, Ontario, William was the first child of Alexander and Sara Marsh. Descendants of Tory Loyalists during the Revolutionary War, the family was expatriated to Nova Scotia in 1776, and arrived on the north shore of Lake Erie in 1820.

Following a typical childhoon on the farm, William began the study of dentistry in Detroit about 1850. Completing his apprenticeship he moved to St. Louis. Although his contemporaries often referred to him as "Doc", he ended his practice in 1859 and became an employee of Edward Creighton, constructing telegraph lines in Missouri.

Serving in the capacity of general road manager, he directed a crew of recent Irish immigrants. His first major project was a line from St. Joseph to Omaha, completed October 5, 1860. In the spring of 1861, the line was extended to Julesburg. The project provided his first view of Merrick County. Coincidentally his future wife, Mary Pyles, was passing through at the same time, headed for the Colorado gold fields.

On July 4, 1861, they continued the line on to Salt Lake City arriving October 17. One week later the connecting line from California arrived, and the first transcontinental telegraph was completed. He received a sinecure from Mr. Creighton, and took up residence in Lone Tree, supervising the line from Columbus to Ft. Kearney.



William and Mary Marsh

In November, 1869, he married the widowed Mary Pyles who brought to this union three children, a quarter section of land, and gold from the Colorado and Montana rushes.

The new family took up farming on Mary's land near Parkers Island where their first child, Frederick Alexander, was born November 21, 1871. Two children, Frank and Charlotte, died in infancy. Maude was born February 8, 1879. Remaining single all her life, she cared for her parents in their later years and died in 1923. Raymond, born September 8, 1880, was a gifted child but tragically was stricken with meningitis, leaving him impaired. He died April 17, 1970.

William served as county sheriff in 1871 and 1872. In 1874, the family moved to a homestead on Prairie Creek four miles northeast of Archer. The first years in their new soddie were difficult. They lost nearly all the livestock to the Easter Blizzard in 1874, and the next year the grasshoppers took the corn crop.

While the 1870's were plagued by drought, insects, and financial panics, the 1880's were profitable for most farmers. In the early 1880's William sold his half-interest in the Canadian family farm to his brother, Alex. This income, along with a timber claim, allowed him to greatly enlarge his holdings. With additional land available, he expanded the cattle herd and soon developed a reputation as a savvy cattle buyer, often serving as an agent for other farmers.

In 1893, their son, Fred began managing most of the farm. After forty years of rough and occasionally violent life on the frontier, William and Mary enjoyed a quiet and prosperous retirement. After William's death on July 2, 1917, Mary moved to Archer where she passed away October 31, 1920. *Submitted by Wm. R. Marsh, M.D.*



Fred and Ivy Crites Marsh — 60th Wedding Anniversary 1963
Children — Warren, Earl, Marion, Elizabeth Jensen, Erma Mesner, Portia Reeves

FRED A. MARSH FAMILY

My father, Fred A. Marsh, was born November 21, 1871, and grew up in Midland township, Merrick County, Nebraska. The family lived in a small sod house, often visited by Pawnee Indians from their reservation a few miles north. He attended Nebraska Central Academy, (later Nebraska Central College), for a time and graduated from Nebraska State Normal School in Fremont. He taught two years in a rural school in Nance County where, at one time, there were fifty-two pupils enrolled, several of them older and larger than he. Several life-long friendships began in that school.

My mother, Virginia Ivy (Crites) Marsh, was born November 23, 1871, in a clapboard homesteader's house on the prairie, and she, like dad, lived her entire life in Merrick County. She graduated from Central City High School about 1890. She was an accomplished woman in her own right, and carried on a prodigious correspondence throughout the years.

After a courtship, during which a two-wheeled cart was the means of transportation, dad and mother were married April 19, 1893. They established a fine Christian home for their children, and lived exemplary lives before them. They were reasonably prosperous, depending largely on a herd of grade hereford cattle for income. There were some bad years when they encountered drougth or chinch bugs or grasshoppers or too much rain. I should mention here that dad was widely known for his melon patch. Through the years, he gave away thousands of melons to all who came.

Fred and Ivy Marsh were the parents of seven children. They are (with 1980 address) Earl C. Marsh, Worland, Wyoming; Erma L. Mesner, Central City; Marion F. Marsh, Central City; Elizabeth Jensen, LaGrange, Wyoming; W. Warren Marsh, Archer; Portia M. Reeves, Central City; Dorothy May who died in infancy.

In 1921, they retired to a newly-built house near the home place — a home where there were countless family gatherings and visitations by a host of friends, some of whom were people of considerable distinction.

Dad called himself a farmer, but education held a high priority in his life. Besides teaching in his early years, he was later elected County Superintendent of rural schools in Merrick County, visiting some sixty scattered schools via horse and buggy two or three times each year. Later, he made a notable record as a member of Nebraska State University Board of Regents for several years. For many years, he wrote a column of more than usual interest for a Central City newspaper.

Both dad and mother were life-long members of rural Fairview Methodist Church, and both taught classes there for many years. And they were dependable boosters in every forward-looking community enterprise.

It is difficult, perhpas impossible, for us in this age of opulence, to comprehend the privations our forebears endured. Still, they were a happy people! Each generation can enjoy the environment in which it lives. *Submitted by Earl C. Marsh*

MARION F. MARSH FAMILY

My grandfather, William E. Marsh, was foreman of the work crew that built the first telegraph line from Omaha to Cheyenne — a project that took him through Merrick County. Liking what he saw here, he returned to build and live in a sod house northeast of Archer. My father and mother, Fred A. and Ivy Crites Marsh, inherited and bought that and adjacent farmland, and built the house in which I was to live most of my life. I was born in a back bedroom of that house, the third of six children, and left that same house (with later-day variations) to retire to Merrick Manor in Central City in 1977.



Marion and Bell Marsh — 50th Wedding — 1970

The smartest thing I ever did was to marry Belle Mesner on November 3, 1920, with whom I shared the heights and depths of life for fifty-seven years until her death in October of 1977. In addition to being just the right wife and companion for me, she proved to be a beautiful mother for our five sons. Farming and raising livestock was for us a fulfilling vocation, as the seasons of our lives were interwoven with the changing seasons and fortunes of the world of nature.

Fairview United Methodist Church became a focus of much of our family and community life, with Belle, the boys and I filling many roles in the life of that fellowship through the years. It was also our privilege to serve in several capacities in the District and Conference work of our church.

Music has been a chief enricher of my life, and provides some of my favorite memories, from singing with my own brothers and sisters as we rode in the "Democrat Buggy" to church youth events, to gathering around the piano with Belle and the boys in various instrumental and vocal combinations, to singing in the church choir, to attending various musical programs and concerts, to our annual family singing of carols around the Christmas tree.

Community responsibilities I enjoyed included twenty-six years on the District #23 (Gardner) public school board, twelve years with the Merrick County Board of Supervisors, and eight years on the County Hospital Board.

Our family is now scattered, but we remain a close family. Robert and his wife, Yvonne (Nitzel) are in Webster City, Iowa, where he is sales manager for a grain and storage handling manufacturer. Donald and Helen (Terry) live in Lincoln, where he is a United Methodist minister currently on assignment as a District Superintendent. Wayne is a pediatrician living, with his wife, Marilyn (Miller) in Omaha. Glenn, having been an agricultural consultant in Texas for several years, has recently begun a new business venture, along with his wife, Jan (Smith), in Albuquerque. Norman and Roberta (Mayberry), our only family remaining in Merrick County, live on the home farm, the fourth generation of Marshes to till the soil and risk the marketplace in that increasingly precarious calling. Among our five sons and their families are fifteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, to whom my generation bequeaths a world whose turns of events continue to make me glad to have lived when I did. *Submitted by Marion F. Marsh*

NORMAN MARSH FAMILY

Norman Marsh, the fifth (and last) son of Marion and Belle Mesner Marsh was born in Central City on August 4, 1936. He was raised on the farm north of Archer as were his father and grandfather. He attended the Gardner country school, riding his horse or walking the one and one-half miles every day. He went to high school in Central City, where he stayed during the week with the Park Young family. During these years, he was active in the Fairview Church, 4-H, chorus and band. He also acquired a car so he could commute from home. He graduated from Central City High School in 1954.

The next fall, he went to Lincoln where he attended Nebraska Wesleyan University. He stayed for awhile with a married brother living in Lincoln. There were some advantages to being the "baby" of the family. During this time he met Roberta Mayberry from Omaha. Even after he transferred to the University of Nebraska to finish his education at the Ag College, this friendship grew and flourished and they were married on August 23, 1958 in Omaha.

Norman and Roberta returned to the farm and continued raising stock cows and crops, first as partners with Norm's parents, and then on their own. Norm was able to instill in his wife and the three children that followed, the love of the land that had been in his family for over one hundred years.

Sharon Belle Marsh was born May 16, 1959; Michael Norman Marsh on November 10, 1960 and Rochelle Marjorie Marsh was born August 28, 1963 all in Central City.

In March of 1963, we moved into the house that Norman's grandparents (Fred and Ivy Marsh) had built in 1920. I think that after eighteen years, it is finally becoming known as Norman and Roberta's house instead of Grandpa and Grandma Marsh's house.



Norman and Roberta Marsh Family

In the event that this is beginning to sound like an obituary, let me hasten to add that as of this writing, we are all alive and well.

Sharon graduated from Central High School in 1977. She attended the University of Nebraska School of Nursing and is now living in Lincoln working as a Registered Nurse.

Mike graduated from high school in 1979 and is now studying at the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture, where he is active in Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity.

Shelly will graduate from Central City in 1981. She has been very active in FFA, track, music etc. At this time, she is still undecided about her future.

The farming life has been good, but at times discouraging. The weather doesn't always co-operate and we are forever at the mercy of the "markets". But we can hear the birds sing, see baby calves romping in the sunshine and soon we will be able to "hear" the corn grow again.

Maybe, before too long, one of our children will choose to return to the farm and the cycle will start over again. *Submitted by Roberta Marsh*

WARREN & VIRGINIA MARSH

On July 4, 1903 Fred and Ivy Marsh celebrated the day by welcoming a new son to the family. Because of the calendar date they chose a patriotic name, William Warren, dating back to the battle of Bunker Hill, where General Joseph Warren died in battle. To add to the excitement of the day, the hired man fell out of the haymow.

All of this transpired on the old Marsh homestead four and three quarters miles northeast of Archer, Nebraska. It was here that Warren grew to young manhood.

He received his early education at District #23 (Gardner). He and his two brothers and their three sisters walked daily, in all kinds of weather, the three mile trip all through their grammar school years. Later he attended and graduated from Nebraska Central Academy in 1922. This was followed by one year at Nebraska Central College.

During the next few years he farmed with his father and taught school at Districts #18 and #23. In his first livestock venture on his own (with hogs) he discovered some of the economic uncertainties of farming. His carefully recorded expenses indicated that it cost him $5.25 per hundred to put them on the market. However the check he received only figured to $3.20 per hundred.

He returned to college in 1930 where, along with his classroom studies, he found time for several extra curricular activities, such as music, drama, debate and athletics, not necessarily in that order. While in college he was considered an outstanding athlete. He received state recognition in both football and track. He graduated from Nebraska Central College in 1933 and that summer took graduate work at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

From 1933 to 1935 Warren lived in Shelton, Nebraska coaching football and basketball, and teaching biology and music. He moved to the Nebraska School of Agriculture at Curtis in 1935 as head of the English department and serving also as an athletic coach.

While at Shelton he first met Virginia Peters, a fellow teacher. She was the third child of Dr. W.R. and Mrs. Maude Tannehill Peters of Stanton, Nebraska. Dr. Peters was a Wisconsin native and a graduate of Rush Medical School. His wife was a Hoosier, moving to Madison County in 1883.

Virginia was born April 23, 1913 in Stanton, Nebraska and graduated from Stanton High School in 1930. She attended Doane College at Crete, Nebraska. While there she was active in sports and dramatics and was a charter member of the Doane chapter of Cardinal Key.

Graduating in 1934 she began teaching in Shelton. In 1936 she moved to Cozad, Nebraska and taught both grade and Junior High until 1941.

Warren and Virginia were married August 24, 1941 in Plymouth Congregational Church Lincoln, Nebraska. They taught and studied at the University of Nebraska during the next year and then returned to the Marsh family farm in 1942, taking up residence in the former Mary Parker Marsh's home in Archer.

During the next forty years they devoted their



Warren and Virginia Marsh

time to expanding their farming operations, raising Hereford cattle and becoming involved in community activities. Warren directed the Fairview Methodist choir for almost thirty years. He has been a director of the Archer Co-op Credit Association for many years. He served six years on the State Farm Bureau Board and is a member of the Nebraska Stock Growers and National Cattlemens Association. In 1954 he was elected to the Nebraska Hall of Agriculture Achievement. In 1963 Warren was named "Merrick County Outstanding Farmer" by the Central City Chamber of Commerce and in 1978 the Lone Tree Rodeo Association named him "Stockman of the Year". His interest in cattle took him on a tour with Nebraska stockmen to South America in 1963. In 1970 he was appointed to the State A.S.C.S. Committee. One of the most interesting and challenging volunteer opportunities was helping organize Merrick Foundation and he was one of its original board members.

Virginia taught in the Archer High School from 1942-1947. (She was the superintendent — there was one other teacher in high school and two in the grades) She is active in Fairview United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women. In the former W.S.C.S. she held both District and Conference offices. She is an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma, a teachers' sorority, and her extension club (Fairview Homemakers). Both she and Warren keep active in Republican politics where he served as County Chairman for fifteen years.

When the weather and markets allow, the Marshes spend much of their leisure time traveling about the United States and Canada and had one trip to Australia and New Zealand. They are the parents of one child William Robert, born April 24, 1948.

Warren and Virginia retired from active operation of the ranch in 1981. Warren says "From the old Jenny Lind cultivator, the Democrat wagon and the model T. Ford to the super-jet and the sophisticated world of electronics in one life time has been an exciting and fascinating journey." *Submitted by W.R. Marsh, M.D., and W.W. Marsh*

WILLIAM R. MARSH FAMILY



William R., Annabelle and Alex Marsh

William Robert Marsh was born April 24, 1948 at the St. Francis Hospital in Grand Island, Nebraska. He was the only child of Warren and Virginia Peters Marsh. His elementary schooling was obtained in Archer in a two room school. The upper floor housed the High School until the spring of 1957. In 1966 Bill graduated from the Central City High School as valedictorian of his class.

In the fall of 1966 he entered the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, on a four year Regents scholarship, taking pre-med. He was also interested in journalism and was the associate editor of the 1969 "Cornhusker".

At the end of three years he was accepted at the University of Nebraska Medical School in Omaha. He received his Bachelor of Medicine in 1970. In 1973 he graduated from Medical School with an M.D. degree. After one year as an intern in Torrance, California at the Harbor General Hospital, he returned to the University of Nebraska Medical School in Omaha where he took his residency in Radiology from 1974-1977.

Bill was married July 8, 1972 to Annabelle Brodbeck at the Brodbeck ranch near North Platte. Annabelle was the first child of Harry and Omalee Doebke Brodbeck. She was born June 10, 1950 and attended a rural one room school near her home. She graduated from North Platte High School in 1968, attended the University of Nebraska for two years and graduated from Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing in Omaha in 1973 as an R.N. She received her B.S.N. in 1977 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

In 1977 Bill and Annabelle moved to the Wild Cat Hills area south of Gering, Nebraska and Bill accepted a position as Radiologist in the West Nebraska General Hospital in Scottsbluff. For a few years Annabelle worked as a Community Health Nurse in Scottsbluff County.

Their first child, William Alexander was born March 13, 1980. *Submitted by Mrs. Warren Marsh*

JAY WESLEY MARR FAMILY

My grandfather, Jay Wesley Marr, was born in Ruskin, Nebraska, on March 20, 1888. He was the son of James Thomas (1864-1941) and Ann Marie Enearl Marr (1869-1937). James was a prominent race horse breeder, and raced sulkies at the local county fairs. Jay married my grandmother, Grace Elizabeth Pettigrew, at Nelson, Nebraska on May 30, 1910. They lived in Oak, Nebraska, where four of their five children were born: Donald on March 11, 1911, Nelda on February 16, 1913, Von on May 12, 1915 and Val on December 7, 1917. Jay worked as an auto repair man and was a rural mail carrier. In 1919, they moved to Central City where he was employed in a garage. On March 21, 1920, Lillian was born to them. In the early 1940's he worked for Ross & McIlnay Co., and was caretaker at Riverside Park.

My grandmother, Grace, was born November 2, 1889, in Newton, Iowa to William S. (1866-1928) and Lillie Mae Wilson Pettigrew (1873-1932). Jay and Grace, affectionally known by all of us as "Pop" and "Mom" were devoted Christian people. They belonged to the First Christain Church in Central City, and worked in it all of their lives. Grace had been struck with polio in the early 1940's, but it never kept her from tending to her family and doing her church work. She passed away October 13, 1951, and Jay in November 19, 1964. They are both buried in Central City.



Jay Marr Family — 1928

Donald entered the Army Air Corp August, 1942, as a radio specialist in the North African Campaign. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and three bronze stars. He returned to Central City in 1945 and resumed his business of refrigeration, radio, and T.V. repair. He passed away May 13, 1970, burial in Central City.

Nelda married Harry Smith (my parents) May 22, 1932. After moving to Waco in December, 1941, my Dad became Postmaster of Waco, retiring in March, 1975. They had two children, Beverly Janice and Gordon Rodger, and six grandchildren.

Von married Pearl Scott May 23, 1936. He operated a Maytag dealership in Crete, Nebraska, before retiring from that business and moving to Lincoln in 1965 where he was employed at the University. They have two children, Grace Elaine and David Jay and three grandchildren. Von passed away March 13, 1972, and was buried in Central City.

Val entered the United States Army in 1942, but received a medical discharge in 1943. He worked in the Crete Mills, Crete, Nebraska for several years. Val passed away July 30, 1956 and is buried at Central City.

Lillian married Harold Bornemeier May 18, 1941. They farmed in the Louisville, Nebraska, area until 1960 when they moved to Little Rock, Arkansas. They have two sons, John and Richard and two grandsons. *Submitted by Janice Smith Finley, Granddaughter of Jay and Grace Marr*

NETTIE NESBIT MARTIN

Mary Jeanette Nesbit was born in 1864 in Illinois where she lived until her marriage to Fredrick Martin (Born 1860) in 1886.

They came to Nebraska in a covered wagon along with some of the Augustus family who had raised Fredrick.



Nettie Martin Family — 1918

They had five children, Pearl (Mrs. M.C. Dexter) born 1888, Henry 1894, Lulu (Mrs. Ralph Rose) 1896, Mable (Mrs. Lloyd Dexter) 1898, and Irene 1901.

Fredrick died in 1903 and is buried in the Fullerton Cemetery. This left Nettie with five children to raise. She took in washings and cleaned homes. Pearl taught school and contributed. After Pearl's marriage the family came to Merrick County. Nettie lived with Pearl and Lulu her last years. She died in 1942 and is buried in the Fullerton Cemetery. *Submitted by E. Dexter*

MARTIN-TUNKS

Both Albert Tunks (January 9, 1847 to May 1, 1928) and Isabelle Martin (1851-1938) were born, courted and were married in Illinois. They were destined to become the grandparents with whom I stayed while attending high school in Central City.

As a Civil War veteran grandpa was eligible to homestead a quarter section of land. He chose one in Mead township in 1871. Later he sold that farm and bought the rights to the quarter section of timber claim of another settler and finished proving up on it. Their first child was Edith, born December 11, 1874, (later Mrs. Henry McGath). The second was William Elmer, who lived only briefly in 1877-78. Next came Neva Ethel on July 17, 1879. It was she who became my mother. Several years later a son, Glen, was born. He is buried in Sheridan, Wyoming where he spent his adult life. Glen was the first baby baptized in the Pierce Chapel church after its erection in 1889.

Altogether my grandparents built four houses in which they lived, beginning with the one on the original homestead, then one on the timberclaim. When grandpa could no longer farm because of "rheumatism" they retired and moved to Central City. They bought twenty acres on the east edge and built the large square two story house which is still there, now amidst motels. It is the first residence on the north side of Highway 30 after passing the Industrial site when approaching from the east. Later, they constructed a bungalow type dwelling in the second block south of Highway 30 on D Avenue. It was here that grandma broke her hip in a fall down the basement steps and was invalided for the remainder of her life.

Grandma and Grandpa were both genteel in nature and were concerned about the quality of life around them. Grandpa was one of those who gave money to help with the establishment of YMCA downtown. While living with them, I was permitted admittance on his membership card and spent much of my free time taking advantage of the athletics available there.

Having observed the havoc wrought in the lives of the family of one of grandma's sisters by an alcoholic husband, their convictions against liquor were reinforced and they remained totally opposed to any alcoholic beverages all their lives.

They are buried in the Central City cemetery as is their infant son and daughter, Edith, who died October 11, 1967. *Submitted by Frank Klar Betts*

THE MASHEK FAMILY

My parents, George and Mary (Vavra) Mashek, came to Merrick County in 1907 from their birthplace at Abie, Butler County. They came the 100 miles on dirt roads with their earthly possessions in a horsedrawn "spring wagon", and settled on a 240 acre farm two and one-half miles north of Chapman, on the "warm slough". My father built a lovely home in 1910, which still stands tall, proud, and stately in its new coat of blue, a monument to thrift and enterprise.

Joe and Julia (Vavra) Mashek preceded my parents' coming by one year, settling on a farm on "the ridge", north of Chapman.

The two brothers married sisters, and I, who arrived on November 20, 1907 was the only child for both couples. I had a wondrous childhood.

Father's success story, due to superhuman efforts, caused his early death in 1926 when I was eighteen, in my first year at the old Grand Island Baptist College. Mother built a home in Chapman, presently the Baptist parsonage. I continued college at the Universities of Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, California, and Alaska. My parents had both attended Fremont Normal, now Midland College.

In 1945, the Masheks sold out and retired to Schuyler, in Colfax County, whee they lived out their lives, and are all buried at Abie.

I had been teaching here in Wauneta, in western Nebraska, where I married Harry Ziegler who has been a builder, and is a real-estate broker and appraiser. I continued a career of teaching music, English, and French, here, and five years in Alaska. I also had a ten-year stint as Chase County (Imperial) Superintendent of Schools, when I enjoyed extensive state-wide activity as President of Nebraska County (Superintendents) in 1961-62.

Our son, George, a teacher at Rock River, Wyoming, married Erika in Germany in 1962, who gave us granddaughters Silvia, eighteen, and Nancy, fourteen.

We occasionally return to Merrick County to visit lifelong friends, John and Mylda (Husman) Hruza at Central City, and Pat and Bob Hays at Palmer (former Waunetans). We also extend the trips on to Abie to the cemetery on the top of the hill, where nearly half of the ones resting there are my relatives. It is always a pleasant time of remembering all those near and dear ones who shaped my life. *Submitted by Sylvia (Mashek) Ziegler*

JAMES & ELIZABETH MASON

James L. Mason Sr. was born July 6, 1901 in Long Island City, New York, the son of John and Mary Whalen Mason. He spent most of his life in New York City. He married Elizabeth Robertson (deceased 1940). To this union a son James L. Jr. was born. James Sr. worked as an apprentice and went to school nights until he acquired an engineer license to operate high pressure boilers in New York. He worked as an engineer at New York Hospital, Metropolitan Opera House, and sixteen years at American Broadcasting Company in both Radio and Television Theaters.

His son James Jr. served in the merchant Marines and the U.S. Navy as an officer on an Aircraft Carrier. He married Eleanor Cherhaty in 1945. He and Eleanor came to Central City and he attended school at Nebraska Central College for two years. They went back to New York and he entered Brooklyn Poly Tech where he graduated with a Mechanical engineering degree. He is now Vice-President of Brenco Bearing Company in Petersburg, Virginia. They have three children Suzanne Huff, James L. III, and Nancy.

Elizabeth Fauquier Mason, the daughter of Thomas and Belle Bruno Fauquier, was born at Chapman, November 16, 1905. Went to school in District #28 for elementary education. Graduated from Central City High School in 1925. Taught school seven years, two years in North 42 and five years in South #2. Because of scarcity of jobs, she went to New York and worked as a mothers helper. Then to Remington Arms in Connecticut for a year. September 1942 James L. Mason Sr. and Elizabeth Fauquier were united in marriage in New York City. They have a daughter Margaret married to Robert Carcasi and are living in Katy, Texas. They have four sons Scot, John, James and Michael. James and Elizabeth lived in New York City until retirement of both in 1966, James from American Broadcasting Company and Elizabeth from Chemical Bank. They came to Nebraska to retire. They built a small home on an acreage on the Fauquier farm. James made many friends, but only lived two years after retirement. Elizabeth still lives in the home, has a large yard, a garden and flowers and keeps busy with various organizations and family. *Submitted by Elizabeth Mason*

EDWARD MATTSON FAMILY

Five generations of Mattsons have resided in Merrick County since their Swedish ancestors immigrated over one hundred years ago. Thomas Mattson was first to arrive, sailing to California by way of Cape Horn. Intelligent and apparently well-educated, he worked as a miner in California to buy land in Nebraska. In the 1870s, he came to Merrick County to farm a quarter section on the Platte River a few miles west of Lone Tree.

Annetta Nelson was born in Sweden in 1849. In her teens, with the encouragement of her two brothers in Nebraska, she came to America to find a husband. Marriage eluded her, and she worked as a housekeeper in Newark, New Jersey and for the Berryman family in Central City, Nebraska. In 1880, she married Thomas Mattson.



Edward and Anna Mattson — 50th Anniversary

Edward Mattson was born to Thomas and Annetta in their log farm house in 1881. His sister, Cora (Mrs. G. Wilhelm Lindahl) was born in 1884. About then, Thomas may have gone to the Black Hills to look for gold. In 1885 he died of miner's consumption, having been a sailor, miner, farmer, carpenter, and school district director. His will instructed Annetta to take their children to Sweden to "give them a good education, to rear them in the habits of industry and inculcate upon them, as far as may be, Christian faith and charity." But Annetta stayed put. Then in 1887, she married Frank Johnson and moved to her other farm near the Mamre community in Hamilton County. In 1890, Millie Johnson (Mrs. Walter Randahl) was born to this union.

Another family of Swedes settled in Merrick County about this time. Johannes and Emma Nelson immigrated in 1884, and in the ensuing sixty-five years they raised a family of six girls and two boys in a series of farm homes. Their second child, Anna Cordelia, was born in 1885. From about 1896 to 1899, they were tenants on the Merrick County farm of Annetta Mattson Johnson.

Meanwhile Edward Mattson had grown up. He attended Fremont Normal School, worked for two years as a carpenter in Polk, married Hilda Lindbloom, and bought out the Merrick County Mattson farm. Hilda died there four years later in childbirth.

In 1909, Edward married Anna Nelson. They raised four sons, Harry, Gerald, Joseph, and Robert. The farm prospered, and Ed's carpentry and beneficence were known for miles. In 1934, he was named "Master Farmer" by the Nebraska Farmer. He and Anna retired in 1954 and moved to a home in Central City, on a site now occupied by the Litzenberg Hospital. Their sons, Gerald and Harry, still reside in Merrick County, the former on Thomas Mattson's original farm on the Platte river. Harry's son, Thomas farms with his father, near Chapman. His daughter, Sara, is a fifth-generation Merrick County Mattson. Elsewhere, in schools and jobs across America, the progeny of Thomas Mattson strive to realize the high aspirations he recorded for them in 1885. *Submitted by Mrs. Harry Mattson*

RUSSELL & FERN MEAD

Russell and Fern Mead came to Merrick County in June, 1969 as assigned pastor and wife to serve the Fairview (Central City) and the Archer Zion United Methodist Churches.

Previous assignments were West Point Trinity where both daughters were born; Winslow-Telbasta where we were adopted into the family activities of the parish; Cozad Parkview with its busy schedule and many gifts to the community, coupled with Eustis where a strong church union was developed.

Beginning our middle years in Merrick County life was made interesting by our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, Jolene's high school graduation, Linda's graduation from Omaha Methodist School of Nursing, and the arrival of our first grandson. Fern's ministry was her nursing service in Litzenberg Memorial Hospital where she added much TLC to patient care. For Russell this was a time of growth and church administration and sharing the scriptures in visual ways. His favorite visual idea was the development of a wood sculpture called The Encounter Cross. For Zion Church the highlight was celebrating the Centennial of the Congregation through out the year 1972.

Non-pastoral delights included living at a country crossroad of farming activity, the gracious welcome of Fairview House, warm friendships and interesting country to hike, and getting acquainted with God's wild flowers and plants. Wedding vows were renewed on our twenty-ninth anniversary during a morning worship service at Zion Church.

This was followed by a move in 1974 to Wood River-Alda Churches. Here we built a new parsonage, and a study resulted in the decision to build a new church and appointment of a building committee. In this pastorate it was a time of intentional adminstration, leadership development and goal setting, and the recommending of a young man for pastoral ministry. Russell celebrated thirty years in the ministry with the Bishop's presence. Fern gave supportive leadership, much encouragement and vision to a strong unit of United Methodist Women. She was also in nursing service at the St. Francis Medical Center, Grand Island for about three years.



Russell and Fern Mead

Russell and Fern are currently serving St. Paul United Methodist Church, Elmwood where they have moved into new buildings. This parish promises to be a time of growth, as members being the church to one another.

Russell was born March 4, 1921 (the day of President Harding's inauguration) on a farm near Champion, Nebraska. He received his BA from Westmar College, LeMars, Iowa. and his BD from Evangelical Theological Seminary, Naperville, Illinois in 1947. He spent two years in graduate study at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Fern was born on a farm near Paton, Iowa December 20, 1922. She received a teaching certificate from Westmar College in 1943. She taught in the elementary grades of Iowa and Illinois public schools. Fern was a Cataloguer in Love Library, UNL while they lived in Lincoln.

Their older daughter, Linda Joyce (Mead) Ryan, was born on December 23, 1949 in Lincoln, Nebraska. She lives with her husband Chuck, and two sons, Jay and Nicholas, in Central City, Nebraska.

Their younger daughter, Jolene Ruth (Mead) Bantam was born on June 8, 1953 in West Point, Nebraska. She lives with her husband Ed on a farm near Orleans, Nebraska.

They have been blessed by many, warm friendships developed over the years, a deep love for their grown children, and a fruitful ministry to God's people through the church.*Submitted by Russell and Fern Mead*

EMERY MENDENHALL FAMILY

Where did it start and where did it travel enroute to Merrick County? It started in England and Germany. The trail was long; I'm sure very labori-



Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Mendenhall and Family

ous. First there was the Penn Settlement, then the Ohio River Valley, Illinois, Missouri and finally Nebraska.

Dad, C.L. Mendenhall, was born in Hamilton County in 1884. Mom, Martha Schultz, was born in the haymow-living quarters of a pioneer barn west of Grand Island in 1890. She was living north of Chapman near the old Woodpecker Church when she and Dad were married.

I was born at Central City, about one mile north of the triangle in 1910. We moved to Duncan in 1919, where I completed high school. Then to Grand Island for three years and on to Chapman in September 1930, where my life really got underway.

It was Fall Festival time in Chapman — October, 1930. The town was alive with laughter, games, contests. While walking around enjoying the festivities I was introduced to Ralph Stoltenberg. He was hanging onto the end of a rope — anchor-man in a tug-of-war. He suggested that on such a nice fall evening that female companionship was in order. Inasmuch as I was new in town he arrange for my companion to be Merle Vipperman. That was a most fortunate arrangement that has lasted for fifty years, and we hope many more.

Merle and I were married in March 1931 and lived in Chapman for two and one-half years. During that time we ran a small cafe with my parents. It was located next to the vacant lot where the free Wednesday night movies were shown.

Writing this brings back many wonderful memories. Those were supposed to have been difficult years, and I guess they were — bank closings, unemployment, etc. However, for us there was always each other. In 1933, our daughter, Beverly, arrived to make us a real family unit.

In the fall of 1933, the Corps of Engineers, US Army, offered me an opportunity to work at Brownville, Nebraska. I remember leaving Chapman on the Spook-Eye, the affectionate name for the early morning passenger-milk train to Lincoln. My little family followed the following month.

That ended our residence in Merrick County.

My parents departed Chapman in 1935 for Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1938 they moved to California.

Merle, Beverly and I were transferred to California in 1937. We were joined by our son, Bill, in 1940 to make us a complete family.

Our little family has grown and scattered. Daughter Beverly, granddaughter Debbie and two great-grandchildren, Scot and Jennifer, are in Idaho. Beverly raises Arabian horses. Son Bill and grandchildren Chris and Kelly live in Virginia. Bill is with United Air Lines.

The trail for us, since leaving Chapman, has let us to many interesting places around the world and finally to our present retirement in Southern California. Deep inside, however, there is a homing instinct that puts us on the road to Chapman at every opportunity. *Submitted By Charles Emery Mendenhall*

NEIL & KAY MESNER

On a warm Sunday, June 29, 1958, in Council Bluffs, Iowa, Kay Rochelle Roberts of that city and David Neil Mesner of Central City, Nebraska, were united in marriage. Although from different communities, a brief history of their two families reveal much in common.

Their ancestors were of English, Welsh and German stock, and can be traced to Colonial days in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Canada. The Mesner and Roberts families emanated from eastern Pennsylvania, and both migrated by way of Ohio to Iowa about 1840. Near Pleasant Plain, Iowa, the two families were part of the Quaker community that lived and worshipped there. Again, both families moved to Dixon County, Nebraska, where Kay's father, Ross Roberts, was born. The Mesner family moved back to Pleasant Plain for a few years where Neil's father, Raymond Mesner, was born. Later, the Mesners moved to Adams County, Nebraska, and finally to Central City in 1907 to be a part of the Friends community associated with Nebraska Central College.

Kay's grandparents, John and Clara Ferguson, and mother, Hazel, came to Central City about 1916. They were also members of the Friends



Neil Mesner Family — 1980

Church and associated with Nebraska Central College. As students at the college, Hazel Ferguson and Ross Roberts met, and were later married.

Neil's mother, Erma Marsh, was born in Merrick County. Her parents, Fred and Ivy Marsh, were also lifetime residents of the county. Fred Marsh traced his lineage through Marsh ancestors from Canada and through Jason Parker, one of the first homesteaders of Merrick County.

Raymond Mesner and Erma Marsh were married and raised their seven children in the Merrick County farming community. Their children: Dale, Warren, Elizabeth, Neil, Helen, Philip and William, began their education in the rural schools, and all graduated from Central City High School. Neil has fond recollections of the one-room school atmosphere, and especially of the teachers, Misses McCoy, Willeman, Evers, Mickey and Willets. These dedicated individuals were more than just teachers, and were often able to impart much of their own rich family tradition and heritage to their students.

Neil later attended Nebraska Central College during the waning, but fruitful, years of that spendid institution. He later graduated from the University of Nebraska.

Kay's family moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where she was born and raised and received her early education. She graduated from Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, as a teacher, a profession she pursued for several years.

After their marriage, Neil and Kay lived in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he received his degree while she taught school. For two years they lived and worked at Scattergood School near West Branch, Iowa. Then they returned to farming in the Arborville Community near Polk, Nebraska. They moved back to Merrick County in 1965 to the old District #39 community near Chapman, where Neil is currently farming.

Neil and Kay are the parents of three children. Miriam Hazel, born in Iowa, graduated from Central City High School, is now attending Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. Brian David and Cheryl Erma, born in Central City, are now attending the Central City Public Schools.

The Mesners have been involved in community and church activities, and feel it is a privilege and joy to live in Merrick County. *Written By Neil Mesner*

RAYMOND MESNER FAMILY

As was true for my parents, Fred and Ivy Marsh, lifelong residence for me has been in Merrick County. Growing-up days for me with my five brothers and sisters were a happy and healthy time on the family farm north of Archer.

My life has been quite ordinary with no spectacular events to record. A girlhood thrill I remember well came when a piano replaced the reed organ in our home. I spent many hours at it, and continued that practice later on the piano which was a wedding gift from my parents. From first grade through college, I enjoyed school. Four years of teaching alternated with college years to help on expenses, I finished in 1921.

In 1921, I married Raymond Mesner in my parents' home. We were married by a former pastor of Fairview Methodist Church, which had been my church home until that time. After marriage, I transferred membership to the Central City Friends church. Both contributed greatly to fullness of life for me.

Raymond's parents were Philip and Nancy Mesner who, with a large family, moved to Central City in 1907. They were one of a number of families to come here early in the century to be near Nebraska Central College, then a newly organized Friends School. This was where I met Raymond Mesner.

By 1938, our family of seven children were aboard, to make for an active and busy household. They are Dale, Warren, Elizabeth (Lindahl), Neil, Helen (Casper), Philip, and William. All but William lived through the hard '30s and we were, I think, justifiably proud of their ability to accept hardship and privation happily. With imagination and a measure of ingenuity, they created their own games and playthings and enjoyed life without complaint. Even today, their favorite childhood reminiscences are of those years. All are in their own homes now and are the parents of my twenty-five wonderful grandchildren. Great-grandchildren are now coming onto the scene also.

Raymond Mesner died of a heart attack in 1968 after an active and useful life. Home was always on the farm, but he had other interests to which he made worthy contributions. Among these was Rural Electrification, which he pioneered in Merrick County, serving on its board from its beginning in 1938 until his death. He also served many years on a state board in the field of electricity. Other activities included work in church and church-related groups, college board, and surveying. He was County Surveyor for a period of years. He possessed a keen mind and through it, touched the lives of many.

I live quietly and contentedly in the home which was ours, in close communication with my children's families. There is great enjoyment in being with them in both my home and theirs. They, with me, are proud of our Merrick County origin and heritage. *Submitted By Erma Marsh Mesner*

CHARLES & MARIE METZER

Charles Robert Metzer was born to Pauline and Nicholas Metzer in 1873 in Wisconsin. He came to Nebraska in a covered wagon with his parents when about a year old. His mother told of how they would bury their iron cooking utensils when they saw a band of Indians approaching, to keep them from being appropriated. The Metzers settled on a homestead along a creek west of Hastings in Adams County, where his father operated a grist mill in addition to his farming. Charles told how, as a boy, he saw such notorious characters as the James brothers and the Dalton boys, as these men crossed back and forth across the state on their various "business ventures". As a boy, he became interested in the milling business. He commenced his career in 1888 in the Holestine Mill. He worked in several mills around the state, and in 1897 was head miller at the Etting Mills in David City. While there, he met Anna Marie Urban who had come west from Cleveland, Ohio, for health reasons. They were married in Lincoln, Nebraska.

For a time he was in partnersip with Elmer Neeley at Humphrey. Mr. Neeley had a lease on the flour mill at Silver Creek. Mr. Metzer leased the mill from him and moved with his wife and two sons to that town. At that time, 1904, Malin was in the second grade in school and that was the year that the tenth grade was added to the Silver Creek Public School. In 1906 a daughter, Thelma, joined them. In 1907, the mill was put up for sale at the front door of the County Courthouse in Central City with Fred Caulton acting as referee. Mr. Metzer purchased the plant with the Silver Creek State Bank backing him. In 1917 the mill was completely rebuilt, modernized, and increased in capacity. In 1921, the original steam engine was replaced by a diesel. He ground feed and packed several brands of flour; Golden Rule, White loaf, Crescent, and Lincoln Highway. Most of the flour was used locally and by nearby towns. Malin delivered the flour in a Reo truck, nearly always accompanied by his wife, Ruth Hinkle Metzer. In 1941, the Mill was destroyed by fire.

Malin and Ruth moved to Wyoming where he was employed as a foreman of an extra maintance gang on the Union Pacific. Mr. Metzer had purchased the A.P. Sutton farm east of Silver Creek which at that time was farmed by Martin Liss. In 1932, Thelma and her husband, Arch Hunter, who had been farming south of Sutherland, Nebraska, in what is now the Sutherland Reservoir, moved onto the Sutton place. Mr. Metzer farmed the Sutton place adjoining town until the death of his wife, Marie, in 1954. At that time, Malin and Ruth returned from Wyoming to help him.

Urban passed away in 1920 as the result of a motorcyle accident at the Polk County Fair. Marie passed away in 1954, and Charles in 1963. Both were members of the Methodist Church. He was active in civic affairs, having served on the town, school and church boards. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and both he and Marie belonged to the Eastern Star. *Submitted By Malin Metzer And Thelma Hunter*

MESS (MAHS)

One hundred years ago, Herman Mess and Catherine, nee Mithoefer, set out from their homeland, Hahlen, a small village in Hanover, Germany. They had a few meagre possessions, two small boys, Henry and William, and a dream of a better life in America.

Arriving in Indiana, near Seymore, they farmed, share-cropped, and worked as hired hands. Catherine learned and liked American cooking, such as fried chicken, hot biscuits, corn bread, and fruit pies — items which were never seen on the table in their homeland. Four daughters joined the family while they lived in Hoosierland: Mary (Mrs. Bert Clark), Augusta (Mrs. Frank Baird), Elizabeth (Mrs. Andy Rice), and Anna (Mrs. Melvin Rice).

They moved to Merrick County in 1890, and in a few short years acquired 400 acres in Prairie Creek Township. Four more members arrived there: Mollie (Mrs. Robert Jones), Edward, Fred, and Mabel (Mrs. A.A. Croisant). The first telephone switch board in the neighborhood was located in the Mess home. Mr. Mess had a fixation concerning potatoes. Coming from a land where a potato failure meant literal starvation, he felt secure only when there was a goodly store of spuds on hand. He planted every known variety, and tried all the new ones. A family without hundreds of pounds of good sound potatoes on hand were the epitome of shiftlessness. Potatoes, not wheat, were his "staff of life". After the untimely death of his wife in 1912, Mr. Mess travelled widely. Earlier, in 1907, he made a trip to visit relatives and friends in his homeland. He died in 1931 while travelling in Mexico. He was survived by nine of his children and thirty grandchildren.

A successful farmer, businessman, officeholder, and a man of considerable wealth and position; was this not a dream fulfilled? *Written By Ralph Baird: Submitted By Mabel Mess Croisant*



Mr. and Mrs. Herman Meyer — taken in Germany — Anna, Martha, Dora, Henry, Fritz, Sophia, Herman, Sophia

HERMAN HENRY MEYER

HERMAN HEINRICH MEIER-GERMAN
HERMAN HENRY MEYER
UNITED STATES

Herman was born April 26, 1879 the son of Johann Heinrich Wilhem Meier and Catherine Marie Heyer, in Graue Hanover, Germany.

Herman and Anna Marie Bormann were united in marriage at Asendoef, Germany, February 11, 1904. Anna was born at Schweringer, Germany on March 7, 1883, the daughter of Henry and Marie Borman.

August of 1913 Herman and Anna emigrated to the United States with the following children: Henry, Dora, Fritz, Sophia, Alfred, and Martha, locating at Worms, Nebraska on the Robinson place where Frieda was born. They came to get away from the war which was breaking out in Europe, later to become World War I. They were sponsored by Herman's uncle, John Meyer, and Herman's older brother, Fred Meyer. They were allowed to bring 500 pounds per person but due to a misunderstanding they brought only 500 pounds for the entire family. They came by ship to New York City and then by train to Grand Island, Nebraska. When they left New York City they had two steamer trunks but only one trunk arrived in Grand Island.

In 1915 they moved three and one-half miles south of Palmer, Nebraska, on the Walt Thede farm, where Wilhemeia was born and died three days later.

Henry, Dora, Fritz, and Sophia attended St. John's Lutheran School in Palmer. Weather permitting, the children walked to and from school, otherwise their father took them by horse and buggy. One day on the way to school something spooked the horse causing a runaway. The wagon, children and father ended up in the ditch. The horse was later located several miles away. Luckily no one was seriously hurt.

Herman was going to buy the Applegate Place northwest of Palmer. He thought he was buying 160 acres only to find out he was buying 40 acres and 120 acres of school right of way which an individual cannot own.

In 1918 the family bought the Harvey Brown ranch seven and one-half miles northwest of Burwell, Nebraska. They moved all livestock, equipment, and family possessions from Palmer to Burwell by train. While everything was being loaded the family dog was tied to a tree. Henry had to hurry to get the dog, both were almost left behind. There was not a Lutheran School in Burwell, Nebraska so Dora and Fritz were sent back to Worms, Nebraska to live with Henry Peters so they could be confirmed. John, Martin, Rosa, and Herman were born on the Burwell ranch.

Herman sustained a serious injury when he fell down the family stairs. He passed away May 24, 1935. Rev. Edgar Brohm of the Lutheran Church conducted funeral services May 29, at Burwell, Nebraska.

Henry moved back home from Grand Island to farm for his mother. The family lived here until 1942 when they moved to the George Randall Farm one and one-half miles northeast of Archer, Nebraska. While they lived here John was killed on Leyte Island in the Philippine Islands on December 14, 1944.

Anna moved to Nance County in 1944 and in 1946 she bought a house in Palmer, Nebraska. She moved in with her daughter Rosa Hobach, northeast of Palmer in 1952. She passed away here on December 3, 1953 with interment in the Burwell Cemetery. *Submitted By Rosa Hoback*



Mess Homeplace — Mr. and Mrs. Herman Mess

REV. H. W. MEYER FAMILY

Pastor and Mrs. Meyer moved to Merrick County from Oxford in January, 1933. He was born March 4, 1875, in Palmer, Kansas, and graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1898. On September 6, 1898, he was ordained at Christ Lutheran Church at Prosser, Nebraska, and St. Paul's Church in Lowell, Nebraska, where he was pastor until 1906.

In October of 1898 he married Emma Kruse of Beecher, Illinois. To this union were born fourteen children. Three of them died as youngsters in Illinois. His ministry included St. Paul's, Grant Park, Illinois, from 1906-1911, Christ Lutheran Church, Steger, Illinois, from 1911-1916, Salem Lutheran Church, Hampton, Nebraska, from 1916-1922, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Oxford, Nebraska, from 1922-1932 and Zion Lutheran Church, St. Libory, Nebraska, from 1933-1949.



Rev. H. W. Meyer

His first wife died in 1923 in Oxford upon the birth of the fourteenth child. He married Lena Pfeiffer in Oxford in 1925. She died in Hastings, Nebraska in 1950 where he had moved upon retiring. He moved to the farm of his daughter and son-in-law, Ray and Olga Seim and in 1952 married Mrs. Dorothea Frese. They resided in Palmer until the fall of 1963 and moved to Omaha to the Lutheran Home. There are still seven daughters and one son who are scattered in various parts of the country. *Submitted by Reynold And Olga Seim*

LOUIS MIDDAUGH

Louis Middaugh was born in Casper, Wyoming, on June 7, 1922. He is one of eight children born to Harvey Middaugh and Princess Martin. He has four brothers and three sisters.

His first wife was Ethalyn Kerrer, a school teacher. To this union were born two sons: Scott Louis (July 28, 1952) and Michael Edward (April 17, 1955).

Lou has lived in Casper, Wyoming, nearly all of his life. He lived one year in Montana and a few boyhood years in Silver Creek, Nebraska. While in Nebraska, he fished in Prarie Creek and Silver Creek. He served some time in the Marine Corp. Lou ranched around fifteen years near Casper, Wyoming. For a few years he operated a guest ranch in the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming.

In 1979 Ethalyn and another teacher were killed in a car accident when hit by a drunk driver.



Lou and Arnetta Middaugh — 1980

Hazel Harbour, Lou's sister of Clarks, Nebraska, introduced Lou to Arnetta Little in 1980. They were married July 8, 1980. Following their marriage they lived a few weeks in Clarks. Around September 1980 Arnetta sold her home in Clarks. They traveled to Montana where they purchased a cabin in the mountains near Tompson Falls, Montana, with a trout stream near by. When it began getting cool in Montana, they became "snowbirds" in Arizona. The home they purchased in Arizona is near the Superstition Mountains. They enjoy scenic rides, fishing, traveling, and prospecting. Lou especially loves to fish and he loves the mountains. He's such a loving and kind man. (Lou died in June 1981). *Submitted by Gail Gregg Ferris*

ARTHUR MILLER FAMILY

Arthur Lewellyn Miller, a lifetime farmer, was born in Polk County, Nebraska September 7, 1910, to Lew and Lucy Ellen Orr Miller of Osceola, Nebraska. On March 28, 1932, he married Evelyn Stromberg, also a native of Polk County and the daughter of Albert and Hildur Samuelson Stromberg of Stromsberg, Nebraska.

Following their marriage Arthur and Evelyn moved to a two-house 500 acre ranch near Oto, Iowa.

Arthur's parents lived in the second house. After four years Art's parents returned to Nebraska and Art and Evelyn moved into their house. Evelyn's brother, Claude Stromberg and family, then moved from Nebraska into the house vacated by Art and Evelyn. During the thirties times were very difficult; the banks closed; and farmers formed a farmers' holiday. Any produce going into Sioux City could not be sold so the Millers poured their milk and cream to the hogs. Corn sold for 8¢ to 10¢ a bushel.

When cream could be sold the three to five dollar check was divided between the two families for groceries.



Arthur and Evelyn Miller

On the Fourth of July in 1936 a very hot wind took the crops and the following year the two families returned to Nebraska with their two households of furniture loaded on one truck.

Two children, Bonnie Jean and Ronald Arthur, were born during their five years stay in Iowa.

Art and Evelyn made their home on a farm west of Clarks. They lived on several farms in the area until 1946, when they bought their own farm northeast of Clarks.

Arthur passed away March 10, 1979 and Evelyn still lives on the family farm.

Art and Evelyn have both been active members of the Clarks United Methodist Church. Art served on the Church Board; Clarks Co-op Board; and the Clarks Fire Board from the time of its organization until failing health forced him to retire. Evelyn is a member of the United Methodist Women, Research Club, and Sunny Side Club.

Art and Evelyn's oldest child, Bonnie Jean, a 1951 Clarks High School graduate married Morris Garretson, son of Ervin and Alice Wilcox Garretson. They were the parents of seven children: Lynne, Brian (deceased), twins Ken and Kim, Sue, (Mrs. Tom Cordsen), Chris, and Lori (Mrs. Clinton Fousek). Morris passed away September 23, 1980, having been in failing health for a number of years. Bonnie resides in Central City and is employed at the Central City Mall. She is a member of the Central City United Methodist Church.

Ronald, a 1953 Clarks High School graduate, married Peggy Ficken of Marshall, Oklahoma, whose parents Alfred and Thelma Diedrich Ficken now reside near Clarks. Ronald and Peggy are the parents of four children: Lou Anne and David who are attending college, Gloria and Deborah at home. Ronald and family make their home on the family farm near his parents' home. They are all members of the Clarks United Methodist Church. Ronald was appointed to serve on the Clarks Rural Fire Board to fill the vacancy of his father. *Submitted by Evelyn Miller*

MILLS FAMILY

The present locker plant originated as a meat market around 1863, owned and operated by Charles R. Brown, who married Laura Gilbert in 1896. They were parents of Florence, who married Harold Snider. Harold helped and worked for his father-in-law many years, later taking over complete operations. He installed locker boxes in the back rooms which are now used as cooler rooms. Needing more locker space, Harold purchased the adjoining building to the south, from Frank Sanders who operated a pool hall there.

In 1940, George Sweet and Andy Graves built the present locker plant for the Sniders. The Clarks meat business was in the Brown and Snider families for eighty years.

In 1960, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Harris rented front space of the locker plant and installed a laundromat, later selling the equipment to Mr. and Mrs. George Zlomke who operated it several years.

In 1963, Bill Douglas purchased the locker plant and laundromat from the Sniders. He added on a slaughter house, which they operated along with the grocery store for fifteen years. In August, 1978, Douglases sold the locker plant and laundromat to Mr. and Mrs. Bud Mills of Aurora, Nebraska.

Marion (Bud) Mills was born December 19, 1974, at Lexington, Nebraska. He has a twin sister, Mary Lou Gofack, living at Craig, Colorado, also a brother, Robert, of Aurora. He is the son of E.J. and Evelyn (Knoop) Mills of Aurora, Nebraska.

Louise A. (Morris) Mills was born January 5, 1948, at Central City, Nebraska, daughter of Edna (Fogelsong) Morris and Adolph Morris. Louise has four brothers, Donald of Coppell, Texas; Roger, St. Paul, Nebraska; Dennis of Central City, Nebraska; Michael, Norfolk, Nebraska, and three sisters: Betty, Grand Junction, Colorado; Deb, Lincoln, Nebraska; and Barbara, Central City.

Bud and Louise were married November 18, 1967, at Swede Plain Methodist Church, Polk, Nebraska. Their children are Buck Alan, born July 10, 1969; Jennifer Ann, born November 6, 1971: and Sandra Louise, born Janurary 5, 1974, at Aurora, Nebraska.

The Mills first lived in the house that was the first telephone office in Clarks, then moved to the former Harold Snider home. In August, 1980, they purchased and moved to the Victor Hoffer home, formerly known as the Vernie Hoffer house. *Submitted by Louise Mills*

MITHOEFER

Both Herman and Willhelm Mithoefer fled to America to avoid German military conscription, even though they came from a family with a history of military experience.

Herman, the elder, came to Merrick County and settled near Archer. He later moved to Keya Paha County.

Wilhelm, a bachelor, came later and bought a farm in Prairie Creek Precinct. His parents joined him later. The Mithefers' were members of the elite Hanover Guard.

Wilhelm served as a member of the school board and held some political offices. He amassed a huge library of history and philosophy books, and was an authority on some facets of military history.

During World War II, while he was serving as Chairman of the Merrick County Republican Central Committee, he attempted to complete his U.S. citizenship requirements by slipping to Columbus, county seat of the adjoining county. He was informed, however, that such matters must be take care of in his own county.

Upon his death, his library was given to the old Grand Island Baptist College, and a portion to Midland College at Fremont. *Written by Ralph Baird*

EMMA NIEDFELT MOELLER

Emma Minnie Katharine Niedfelt Moeller was born on August 25, 1899, at Grand Island to Diedrick J. and Ella Scherzberg Niedfelt. She was married to Albert August Moeller, Sr., on December 26, 1923. He was a son of Henry and Emma Boltz Moeller, and was born August 25, 1897, in Howard County, Nebraska.

Emma and Albert Moeller lived on their farm southwest of Grand Island for a number of years, moving closer to Grand Island in 1961. They are the parents of four children: Neva married Charles Moss (following his death, she married Walter Brabander); Shirley is married to Kenneth Ziegelbein; Albert D., Jr. married Laverna Peters (following her death, he married Maureen Tibbett Miles); and Joyce is married to Donald Dose. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl Karen Niedfelt*

JOE MONSON FAMILY

Joe Monson was born in Polk County, Nebraska to Charles and Ida (Peterson) Monson on April 23, 1901.

Bettie (Kohl) Monson was born to William G. and Kathrine (Hansen) Kohl on October 25, 1909, at the home known as the W.H. Kohl Jr. Farm, Clarks, Nebraska. She was married to Joe Monson December 28, 1927. They moved to his father's homestead which his father homesteaded in 1874. Joe and his brother, Arthur, farmed there until Arthur passed away. They had farmed together since Joe was fifteen years of age. They (the two brothers) rented land for themselves and farmed the homestead for their mother after their father passed away April 10, 1919. Joe's mother passed away November 11, 1931. Then Joe and Arthur bought the farm. After the death of his brother, Arthur, who passed away in August 1947, Joe and Bettie bought the homestead which they still own. Joe's moved into Clarks, Nebraska, January 2, 1948, buying the house where we still live from John Holys.



Mr. and Mrs. Joe Monson

Joe then went into the business of moving buildings, with the help of his brother-in-law, Arthur Kohl, which they did until 1966, when Joe retired.

Joe and Bettie had no children. They celebrated their fiftieth anniversary December 29, 1977.

Joe had five brothers and two sisters, all of which are deceased, except one sister, Myrtle Johnson, who resides at Covenant Home, Stromsberg, Nebraska.

Bettie had four sisters and three brothers. One sister, Martha Darnell, is deceased, also both parents. Bettie's mother passed away at age 72 in 1960, and her father passed away at age 95 in 1978.

We like to travel and have been in forty-nine states of the United States and extensively in Canada. *Submitted by Bettie Monson*

CHARLES ALBERT MOORE



Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Moore

Charles Albert Moore, born on his father's homestead near Marquette in 1880. He worked with his father on the homestead until 1903 when he met and married Laura Mae Mead, native of Boone County, born January 1882. The first six years of their married life was spent farming north-west of Central City. Homestead parcels were opened near Paisley, Oregon. This young couple with their small family prepared to move to this newly opened area. Charles, secured an emigrant car to transport their earthly possessions. Securing family tickets, he was allowed passage to tend the emigrant car. Emigrant car cargo included two cows, machinery to start farming, wagon, small amount of furniture and kitchen utensils. At Alturas, California the cargo was transferred to a narrow gauge railroad to Lakeview, Oregon. The first few months were spent living in a tent until living quarters could be built. Around 1910 many pioneer familes with pioneer spirit, moved west to this newly opened homestead area. Before the family could move in to their new home, the ground was cleared of sage brush about four feet high, garden plot cleared, clearing for a small house. For chicken coops, sheds and out buildings lumber was purchased at $12 per thousand feet unfinished. The plot was completely fenced with woven wire to deter stray animals. Food was raised in garden plot, apples from nearby wild orchards, wheat from east side of Werner Mountains, this was ground to flour in a small mill nearby. For livelihood Charles operated a freight line from Alturus, California to Lakeview and Paisley, Oregon. Cargo was wool bales, lumber, groceries and supplies for neighbors and busineses. A contract to haul mail and parcel post — one occasion parcel post so cheap, growers would send sacks of potatoes by parcel post, once two wagon loads of potatoes waiting for delivery. Children born to this union were — Lucile, Mrs. Arbor Hutchinson, Sacramento; Theodore, Grand Junction, Colorado; Frances, Mrs. Weldon Jones, Corning; Paul, Denair; Pauline, Mrs. Bernard Foresman, Gerber; Elizabeth, Mrs. Raymond Anchordoguy, Sunnyvale; Merl, Sacramento; and Earl deceased in 1980. Hard times and hard to make adequate living persuaded Charles to remove his family and return to Central City in 1915. About ten years later he removed to California with his family where he spent the remainder of his days. Charles departed this life in 1966 and Laura in 1967, both buried at Sunset Hill Cemetery, Corning, California. *Submitted by Arbor R. Hutchinson.*

WILLIAM MOORE FAMILY

For many years the aroma from Daddy Moore's popcorn wagon at the corner of Tooley's Drug greeted the Saturday night shoppers and the everyday business traffic. Buttered popcorn, penny candy and salted peanuts in the shell were the daily fare. Half of the pleasure of eating these peanuts was running your tongue inside the shell to get every morsel of the salty taste possible. By the way, you could even buy two-cents worth of those yummy peanuts.

William Wesley Moore, born July 23, 1851, in Freeport, Illinois, was one of sixteen children. He was married in 1872 and moved to Hamilton County, where he homesteaded near Marquette. He and his wife, Elizabeth (Fye), had ten children Myrtle (Dixon), Ella (Dixon), Lillie (Richards), Charles, Williams, Harvey, John, Jessie (Woodward), Ida (Woodward) and Walter.

Spanning the Platte River was a mile-long wooden bridge with three swells or turn-outs every fourth mile. In the spring, the melting ice was a great hazard. One morning Mr. Moore decided to go to Central City. He hitched his team to his lumber wagon and taking his two oldest boys, Charles, eight and Williams, six, started for Central City. They had almost cleared the north end of the bridge when the span was swept away by ice. The horses panicked and with two scared little boys, Mr. Moore had some difficulty in calming his team. Finally he succeeded, unhitched the horses, turned the wagon around, hitched up the horses and started for home. They had just cleared the south end of the bridge when it too was swept away by an floe. Mr. Moore stopped his team and knelt with his two frightened little boys in the wagon bed and thanked God for saving their lives.

In 1894 the Moore family moved to Central City and in 1896 moved to the College Section where Mrs. Moore died in 1908. The following year Mr. Moore married Laura Tibbetts. For a number of years Mr. Moore worked as a carpenter before retiring and became Daddy Moore, the Popcorn Man.

Mr. Moore lived forty-four years in Merrick County, he passed away in 1938. All of his immediate family are deceased. His step-daughter, Faye Wegner, resides in Central City; a granddaughter, Virginia Flodman, lives in Polk, Nebraska, and Margaret Richards lives in Broken Bow, Nebraska. All of the other grandchildren live out-of-state. *Submitted by Mrs. Anna H. Moore*

HON. THOMAS GEORGE MORGAN SR.

Hon. Thomas George Morgan Sr., was born in Wales, February 2, 1826. Origins of the "Hon." are apparently unknown. He married Hannah Moore, who was born November 9, 1841, in Wales. Mrs. Dave Morgan writes that, after coming to America, Thomas,

> "Drove a mule team and carried freight from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Ogden, Utah. This couple had eleven children, two died of Diptheria . . . They were one of the first families to homestead about two miles southwest of Clarks, Nebraska, which at that time was not settled and had no name. They were surrounded by Indians and stories have been told about the father who smoked the Peace Pipe over a meal with them and made friends of these Indians. They built a home of logs in 1863 when they settled there, which was replaced by a big, two-story frame house."

The 1900 Merrick County, Nebraska Census indicates Thomas came to America, in 1856. A daughter, Hannah B., born January, 1879, in Nebraska, was residing with her parents, in Clarks, at this time.

Thomas Morgan died November 28, 1911. This obituary appeared in the "Central City Republi-



Thomas and Hannah Morgan Stone
Clarks Cemetery

can", November 30, 1911:

"Uncle Tommy" Morgan Dies At Clarks

"Thomas G. Morgan, and old and prominent resident of this county, died at his home in Clarks Tuesday morning, and funeral services were held yesterday afternoon. Mr. Morgan was one of the very earliest settlers of Merrick County. He was born in Wales, and came to America at the time of the Mormon migration to Utah. He was an elder in the Mormon Church, but disagreed with the teaching of plural marriage, and so left the Mormans and returned eastward, locating on a farm near Clarks in the summer of 1868. In the history of the county since that time he has been a prominent figure. He was a county commissioner for a number of years, and was at one time a candidate for county treasurer. He was always one of the most influential political leaders in the county, being a staunch democrat, and during the last Cleveland administration was postmaster at Clarks. His wife and several children survive him. His children are Will and Thomas (Morgan), Mrs. Al Brown and Mrs. Arthur Jandroll, all of Clarks, Mrs. John Tongue of Stromsburg, Mrs. Headbloom, of Stromsburg, Mrs. Dokerty, of Seattle, Wash., and John Morgan, of Denver, who has won considerable fame as a poet, and also as a labor leader. Mr. Morgan's remains are to be shipped to Denver. It is understood that it was his oft expressed desire that his remains be cremated and that his wish will be complied with. His sons Thomas and Will Morgan are accompanying the remains to Denver. He had been in feeble health for several years and had been at death's door for a month before the end came."

Mrs. Morgan, in poor health, though not confined to bed, died, at Clarks, March 19, 1913. The funeral was Easter Sunday; interment in the Clarks Cemetery. *Compiled And Written By Thomas E. Kelly*

THOMAS GEORGE MORGAN JR.

Thomas George Morgan Jr., was born in Box Elder, Utah, September 30, 1859, son of Thomas George Morgan Sr., and Hannah Moore. His father freighted goods, by mule team, from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Ogden, Utah, writes Mrs. Dave Morgan, who says, "He accompanied his father on many of his trips where they often camped by the Platte River in Nebraska".

The Morgans settled southwest of present-day Clarks, Nebraska. The 1870 Merrick County, Nebraska Census lists: Morgan, Thomas G., age 43, Farmer, born Wales; Hanah, 30, Keeping House, Wales; Mary, 12, Utah; Thomas G., 9, Utah; Sarah M., 4, Iowa; William, 8, Nebraska; Kate, 2, Utah; Sophronia, age 3 months, born March — Nebraska. Additional children appear on the 1880 Merrick County, Nebraska Census, Central precinct: John, 7, born Nebraska; Margaret, 5, Nebraska; Hanah, 2, Nebraska; all children named in the 1870 census — still at home, and remained at home through the 1885 Nebraska Census, Merrick County, Central precinct; which lists the mother as "Anna", age 48, born in Wales. Mother born in Wales, father born in England; Thos. Morgan Sr.'s parents listed born in Wales. The following comes from the Morgan stone in the Clarks Cemetery: BUDDIE H. MORGAN SHOEMAKER, JAN. 5, 1882, MAY 10, 1906; THOS. G., FEB. 2, 1826, NOV. 28, 1911; HANNAH MOORE, HIS WIFE, NOV. 9, 1841, MAR. 19, 1913; MIRIAM MORGAN, JAN. 14, 1862, MAY 15, 1867: GEORGE MORGAN, APR. 3, 1876, MAY 2, 1877; MARTHA MORGAN, SEPT. 5, 1881, SEPT. 10, 1883; MARGARET MORGAN, FEB. 8, 1874, FEB. 23, 1886.

Mrs. Dave Morgan continues the story: On February 4, 1893, Thomas Morgan Jr. married Katherine Hammond, who was born in Owen Co., Indiana, on March 28, 1873. They made their home on the Morgan farm for 30 years. Thomas George Jr. and Katherine were interested and successful in their farm work — both working hard the years they spent there. When they retired they spent two years in Central City, Nebraska and the last ten years in Clarks. In Clarks, Katherine was interested in work at the Congregational Church. Thomas saw and was a participant in the development of Nebraska to the time of his death.

Thomas and Katherine's first son, William Earl Morgan, born December 12, 1893, died in infancy, February 16, 1894. Pearl Gennice (Mrs. Harvey Welch), was born November 20, 1894; died March 25, 1969. David Tobias Morgan, came to live with them, March 23, 1905. Thomas George Morgan II, born February 29, 1908, died January 30, 1952.

Dave Tobias Morgan married Doloris Hansen, December 24, 1924. They are living in Sequim, Washington; have four children; fifteen grandchildren, ten of whom are married; and thirteen great grandchildren. Living with the Morgans since the age of four, Dave had very little contact with the Tobias family, and his childhood and growing-up memories are of his Morgan Home.

Thomas George Morgan II married Barbara Little, April 9, 1942. Two children were born to this union. Barbara Morgan still resides in Clarks. *Submitted By Mrs. Dave Morgan And Thomas E. Kelly*

DAVID E. TOBIAS MORGAN

David Ellsworth Tobias Morgan, was born, February 21, 1901, at Clarks, Nebraska, son of David Dempsey and Ruth (Key) Tobias. In 1904, Dave's mother died; leaving five small children. Dave went to live with Thomas and Katherine Morgan, March 23, 1905; attended country school, southwest of Clarks, near the Morgan home, and lived on the Morgan homestead until he married Doloris Hansen, December 24, 1924.

Doloris, daughter of Hans Peter and Celia (Nelson) Hansen, was born in Clarks, Nebraska, in 1907, and attended school, in Clarks, from Kindergarten through high school graduation.

Dave and Doloris started married life in Arkansas City, Kansas. A son, James, was born in Kansas, where they lived until returning to Clarks, in 1926; spent a winter there, then moved to Wyoming. Daughter Maxine was born in Clarks, but they lived in Wyoming at the time. When Maxine was 3 weeks old, Mrs. Morgan took her and "Jimmie" back to Wyoming, where they lived until Maxine was two; then moved back to Clarks and lived on the Shonsey Ranch a summer and winter, where Dave worked for Mike Shonsey. In 1929, the Morgans returned to Wyoming and Dave worked in Lance Creek. The following spring they again returned to Clarks and lived "in what was the Hoffer House". Daughter Marilynn was born there, May 28, 1930. Doloris recalls, "This was during the Depression and jobs were hard to find but Dave got a call to come back to Laramie, Wyoming to work for his old boss whom he had worked for in Kansas and Wyoming, in 1927 and 1928." In Wyoming, Dave worked as a welder for the Union Pacific Railroad; for Pacific Fruit Express, at the west of Laramie, where daughter, Jeri, was born December 23, 1931; and Ohio Oil Company, at Kyle.

In 1943, Jimmie enlisted in the Navy, and the Morgans moved to Washington, where the three girls graduated and the children married. Dave worked as an engine man in a Power Plant at Manchester and Bangor — both civil service — until he retired on disability, after his first heart attack. The children eventually moved away from Washington, and Mr. and Mrs. Morgan decided to move to a warmer climate, after retiring in 1973; ending up in Santa Ana, California.

In October, 1974, Marilynn and her husband, David Deaver, took her parents on a trip from Colorado to Nebraska. In Clarks, they visited, and discovered some family history. They returned to California through Julesburg, Colorado, and visited Doloris' sister, Eunice; Laramie, Wyoming, and visited Jim, who has retired after 30 years in the Navy, and his family. In 1974, the Morgans, married 50 years, were honored in December, with an open house reception by next door neighbors, and a family anniversary dinner, on December 24.

The Morgans moved back to Sequim, Washington, in December, 1979; leaving Santa Ana, December 24, and moved into their new home, December 31. After 56 years of marriage, they have four children and fifteen grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Submitted By Mrs. Dave Morgan And Thomas E. Kelly

ALBERT & JOSEPHINE MORRIS

Albert J., the son of William and Jane Barbour Morris was born near Clarks, Nebraska January 1, 1892. He attended school at Fullerton and in the Pleasant Hill community.

On June 2, 1917, he married Mary Josephine Douglas, the daughter of William and Mary McCarthy Douglas of Clarks, Nebraska. The couple lived in the Pleasant Hill Community all of their married life until Mr. Morris' death January, 14, 1970. They engaged in farming and livestock raising. Mr. Morris also operated steam engine rigs used in the threshing of grain in earlier days. Albert enjoyed hunting and fishing and was an avid sportsman. Josephine was an accomplished pianist, played for several years in her brothers' orchestra, and was able to entertain her many friends with her musical ability. She now resides in Bethesda Care Center in Central City.

They are parents of three children, William W. who resides at rural Clarks; Patricia Anne, who lives at Osceola, Nebraska and Mary Jayne, who resides at Harlingen, Texas. Thy also have seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.*Submitted by William A. Morris*

DALE L. MORRIS FAMILY

My husband, Dale Louis Morris, was born and raised here in Merrick County. He was the oldest of six children of Louis and Dorothy (Fox) Morris. I was born at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and raised in the Monroe, Nebraska, area (Platte County). I was the fourth oldest of thirteen children of Bennie and Elizabeth Bardsley. Dale is German and Polish; I am English and Irish decent.

Dale graduated in 1963 from Clarks High school, attended Ag school in Lincoln and spent some time in the Army before joing his dad farming row crops and raising some hogs and cattle near Clarks.

I was a graduate from Monroe High School in 1967, and a 1971 graduate from Columbus Beauty College, Columbus, Nebraska.

We met through friends and dated two years before getting married on November 27, 1971, in Columbus at St. Isadore Catholic church by Fr. Francis Price. We had all of our brothers and sisters in the wedding as attendants, which totaled ten bridesmaids and ten groomsmen. It was a day to remember.

Dale and I lived in the village of Clarks before getting the opportunity to buy 160 acres of land south of Clarks where his folks were living. We moved to the farm in he fall of 1973, and his folks moved into town.

At that same time we acquired a ready-family of



Dale Morris Family
Deidra, Denice, Dale, Mary, Travis, Ashley, Reena

three children: Donald Alan seven, Deidria Ann six, Denice Ann five. They were my brothers children, as he had been killed in a motorcycle accident that same month.

We all had a lot of adjusting to do all at once. They were new to farm life, Dale and I were new to being parents, so we learned together. The first major thing we did was trade our Volkswagon for a full size station wagon.

School was another important step. Denice was in kindergarten and would fall asleep as soon as she got home and sleep until supper. Deidria was eager to help with housework and Donald was equally excited about farm work and chores.

Three years later, 1976, after waiting so long and being married for five years, we finally had a baby boy of our very own, Travis Dale. He was loved and spoiled so much by us all. We accepted it when doctors told us we probably couldn't have any more children. Sixteen months later, 1978, along came our daughter, Ashley Jane. She was a special joy to us. Having two babies and three growing older children kept me extremely busy. Some days I longed for my prechildren days.

In the spring of 1979, after much thought and counciling, Donald left our home to live in Alliance, Nebraska, at the Nebraska Boys Ranch. We still keep in close touch.

The spring of 1980 we were blessed one more time with a daughter, Reena Lane. We've since decided doctors can be wrong.

We've traded for another station wagon and are planning to add another bedroom to our house. Our farm life is what we are happy with and plan on growing old here with our family. *Submitted by Mary Alda Morris*

WILLIAM A. MORRIS

William A. Morris, the son of Albert J. and Mary Josephine Morris, was born May 27, 1918 at Clarks, Nebraska. He attended grade school at Pleasant Hill and graduated from Clarks High School in 1936. He began teaching rural school in September, 1936. He taught for four and one-half years.

He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in August, 1941. He attended and graduated from Aviation Mechanics School at Wichita Falls, Texas and then was retained as an instructor at the school. He was then accepted for pilot training and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force upon completion of training in March, 1943. He served as flight instructor and check pilot until separation from the service in December, 1945. A second tour of duty was served as flight engineer on Very Heavy Bombardment Aircraft from May, 1951 until July, 1952.

After service, he returned to farming and a secondary occupation of bookkeeping and income tax work.

He is the father of three children, Kevin Wayne who presently lives in Cupertino, California and is a motorcycle mechanic; Robert Alan, who is married to Pamela Schmid and is a truck driver for Atlantic Homes in Central City, Nebraska; and Melody Ann, who is married to Jeff Kohl and resides at Lexington, Nebraska *Submitted by William A. Morris*

WILLIAM & JANE MORRIS

William Morris was born in Cornwall, England July 12, 1842 and came to the USA in 1871. He homesteaded eighty acres in York Country, Nebraska He moved to Nance County, Nebraska in 1880.

During his first marriage, he became the father of five children, Ada Clayton November 5, 1870 whose descendants live at Reardon, Washington; Lillie Bilile December 26, 1871 whose descendants live in Montana; Will F. December 15, 1972 whose descendants live in Virginia; Maud March 31, 1881 whose descendants live in Nebraska; and Thrina March 26, 1883 whose descendants live in Nebraska.

Jane Catherine Barbour, his second wife, was born in Largs, Ayrshire, Scotland November 5, 1863. She came to this country in 1886 and lived with a sister, Agnes at Fullerton, Nebraska.

William Morris and Jane Barbour were united in marriage at Fullerton, Nebraska on February 18, 1891. To this union, seven children were born, Albert J. January 1, 1892, Nettie A. July 7, 1894, Minnie J. December 12, 1897, Vera and Viva May 4, 1899 (died in infancy), May E. July 9, 1900, and Myrtle C. September 12, 1902.

In 1895 Mr. and Mrs. Morris moved to a farm in the Pleasant Hill community north of Clarks, where they resided until 1908 when the family moved to Fullerton, Nebraska. In 1912, they moved to Russellville, Arkansas where Mr. Morris passed away January 4, 1915. Mrs. Morris and her family returned to Clarks, Nebraska where she lived until her death May 1, 1937.

They engaged in farming during his lifetime and during the course of his life, he improved several farms in the Merrick County area, at one time owning 800 acres. Only one daughter surives in this family. She is Myrtle Rauch who lives in Stockton, California. Numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren live in all parts of the United States at this time. *Submitted By William A. Morris*

HARRY MORSE FAMILY

Jessie McKendry, oldest daughter of Margaret Jane McKendry and Elijah McKendry II — early Merrick County pioneers — married Harry Morse in Archer on June 6, 1901. They moved to Wheatland, Wyoming, where Eva Mildred was born March 20, 1902.

Archer beckoned them back in 1903. Charles Ward was born there September 16, 1903, and Raymond Underwood December 21, 1904.

The following summer Dad moved the family to what is now Hurrah, Oklahoma. The summer of 1906 found us in Grand Island, Nebraska. Marion Winifred was born there February 7, 1908, and Robert Edwin April 7, 1910. Marion died of spinal meningitis June 22, 1910. This seemed the end of the world for Mom and Dad. They wanted to leave Grand Island immediately, but money was scarce. Dad borrowed and bought a marginal team and wagon — with North Platte his target to start a new life. One horse died. Dad, further heart broken, rid himself of the reminder and returned to Grand Island. We moved into another house later to a small farm about two miles north of Grand Island.

William Leonard was born there October 6, 1912. When he was two, we migrated back to Archer. Dad pursued his work as a carpenter and threshing machine engineer.

We later occupied the John Boelts farm two miles south and four miles west of Archer. We lived there until the summer of 1917. Charles became sick. His doctor, in Palmer, Nebraska, recommended a high, dry climate. Mom and Dad agreed upon Casper, Wyoming, where we could be with Mom's brother, John, and his family. Our move there was only to follow the doctor's advice.

Charles, overcome by the high altitude, died March 21, 1918. Grief, mental anguish, futility and despair — triggered by the disastrous diagnosis of an incompetent — left all prostrate with frustration. Our single thought and desire was to be rid of Casper.

World War I was nearing an end. Work was reported plentiful in Seattle, Washington. Dad left immediately. With the little money earned by Eva and me, plus that which Dad sent from Seattle, Mom bought "chair-car" train tickets. We arrived there in late August 1918.

Dad bought two small southwest Seattle lots, covered with trees, large fir stumps and aged logs. He and I cut native trees from which we fashioned the framework for a fourteen by sixteen foot tent. With threatening forest fires, kerosene lamps "Privy-out-back", water carried one quarter mile and hope, we struggled there until fall 1919. By then we had built a twenty by thirty foot "board and batten shell".

Dad and I were harassed by smallpox. My case was mild. Dad had to be isolated and quarantined.

Between 1922 and 1924, Dad and I built a larger house, further back on those two lots, in which all four of us grew to adulthood.

Dad died in 1962 and Mom in 1963.



Wedding — 1901
Jessie McKendry — Harry Morse



Robert E., Eva M., Raymond U., William L. Morse

Eva, Bob, Bill and I still (1980) live in or near Seattle, Washington. *Submitted by Raymond U. Morse*

WARD MORSE FAMILY

Ward and Harry Morse were born in Abilene, Kansas, September 8, 1881, and August 20, 1877, respectively. Their parents, Mary Ward Morse (born in Skibbereen, County of Cork, Ireland) and Alonzo Morse, believed to have been a native Kansan, moved their family to Decatur, Illinois, about 1890. Shortly Alonzo died and Mary became blind.

Neighbors adopted all the children.

The two boys were adopted by John Rote. There were three other children; only one, Mary, was remembered. Ward and Harry yearned for an education. Rote permitted them to attend school —



Ward and Winifred Morse with daughter Leena — 1910

three miles distant — only if and when there was no work to be done. They averaged about two months school annually.

When Ward was about eighteen, their desire for an education became overwhelming. They answered the Horace Greeley call, "Go west young man, and grow with the country", and found themselves in Archer, Nebraska about 1899. They found work as farm hands. Ward used his spare time studying for the Methodist Ministry and writing for local papers. He edited the Central City Democrat from October 1903 to February 1905.

Winifred McKendry caught Ward's eyes — through Harry who had married her sister, Jessie, June 6, 1901. Ward and Winifred were married April 7, 1904. Ward insisted they all move to Oklahoma. He resigned his editorship of the Central City Democrat. Harry disliked taking Jessie and their young family; Eva, two, Charles, one year and Raymond, only four months old, to what he considered a "folly in a wilderness". But he did, out of sheer love for Ward.

They arrived in what is now Hurrah, Oklahoma about April 1905. Lenna was born June 12, 1905. Ward became ill, crops failed and produce market fell.

They moved back to Nebraska the following spring — Harry to Grand Island and Ward to Genoa where he bacame active in the Methodist Church. He soon became an ordained minister and served in Genoa, Chapman and Wolbach.

The ministry did not provide sufficient income to raise a family, so he continued farming and writing. He worked twelve to fourteen hours daily. His tremendous ambitions far exceeded his stamina and tuberculosis conquered his frail body.

He moved the family to Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 1906, where he entered the Woodman's Sanitarium and Winifred operated a boarding house.

Helen Jessie was born February 20, 1908, but she died a year later with tubercular meningitis.

Paul Ward was born in 1912 and Ward died a few months thereafter.

Winifred married Charles Cullen about 1914. Her aging parents entrained from Archer to join her about 1916. Charlies died in 1919. All moved to Redlands, California, in 1920 where her parents died in 1922 and 1924.

Five years later, Winifred moved her family to Glendale, California, where she operated a small hotel. There she met and married Charles Birchell.

Lenna died in 1947 and the family moved to Hollywood where Winifred found work as a janitress. She and Charley moved to Banning, California, in 1953 where Winifred died in 1957 and he in 1973.

Paul became a public accountant and still lives with his wife and his youngest daughter Alice, in Redlands. *Submitted by Ray U. Morse from information provided by family records and those of Fred Marsh.*

THE MUELLER FAMILY

Gerhard Hinrich Müller first came to the United States from Oldenburg, Germany, in the early 1850's. He was employed as a grounds keeper at the statehouse in Springfield, Illinois. There he developed a continuing interest in landscaping and horticulture. He returned to Germany and in 1866 married Sophie Bölts. That same year they immigrated to Illinois where they settled on a farm near Belleville. There three children, Gerhard, August and Marie, were born. Because of the occurrence of malaria near Belleville they purchased land in a German settlement in Prairie Creek Township, Merrick County, Nebraska, and moved there in October, 1875. Their baby daughter died on the train enroute to Central City. The farm was located in the North Prairie Creek bottoms and was largely meadow and pasture land. Additional farm land was purchased in the nearby "sandhills." Gerhard set out a large orchard and landscaped the grounds around the home. The remnants of both the orchard and flower garden persisted until the farm was sold in 1956. Their third son, John Frederick, was born on this farm in 1878 and lived there for fifty years.

Two sisters of Gerhard Mueller followed him to America. Both married ministers. Marie became the wife of William Schutz. They were the parents of John Schutz who became a prominent farmer in Prairie Creek Township. One sister and two brothers of Sophie Boelts Mueller, with their families came to Merrick County from Oldenburg, Germany. They were Helene Catherina and Diederich von Aschwege, Gerd and Anna Boelts and Frederick and Margaret Boelts. The Muellers, the Gerd Boeltses and the von Aschweges together with other families in the neighborhood organized a German Methodist Church and constructed a building on the northeast corner of the von Aschwege farm. Several pioneers are buried in the church yard and cemetery. The church no longer exists.

The sons of Gerhard and Sophie Mueller married and lived on farms in Merrick County. John lived on the "home" place where he engaged in general farming and kept bees until his retirement to Central City. He was married to Mary Bruno, the youngest daughter of Henry A. Bruno and Clara Augusta Pemberton Bruno. Mary was born in Chapman, Nebraska, and grew up on the farm of her stepfather, Thomas N. Gosnell, in Prairie Creek Township. John and Mary were active in the Prairie Creek Baptist Church and assumed responsibilities in the affairs of School District #35 and Prairie Creek Township. They had one daughter, Irene, and a foster daughter, Ethel Rathmann. Ethel and her husband, Floyd Tyler, live in Grand Island. Irene is a botanist. She taught in the high school at Chapman after graduation from Nebraska Central College. Following graduate study at the University of Nebraska, she taught at the Pioneer State Teachers College, Platteville, Wisconsin (now the University of Wisconsin, Platteville) and at Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, Missouri. *Submitted by Irene M. Mueller*

LIVA P. RADER MUNN

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Arthur Munn, an auctioneer, came to Hall County, settling on a farm in the Chapman area with their eleven children — six sons and five daughters. When Liva was expecting her twelfth child, her husband took sick and died, May 20, 1931. The kind Dr. Boyd moved them to Central City, Merrick County, in 1932, where they grew up and went to school. The older boys quit school and took jobs to help their mother support the rest of the family. This family, poor by many standards, was blessed and rich with the most wonderful sense of humor ever known in Merrick County.

Mrs. Munn saw five of her sons off to serve their country in World War II. Clarence was deferred. They all returned home after the war was over. Her prayers were answered.

Mrs. Munn worked for Spence Desch in her home dress shop for many years.

These are her decendents:

Jack (Kenneth), married to Helen Paul, has one child; two grandchildren.

Frank, married to Lee (Leona) Jennings, has one child; two grandchildren.

Clarence, married to Vi Green, has four children; five grandchildren.

Genevieve, married to John Newman, has seven children, eleven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Elbert, married to Gladys Mickelson, has three children; eight grandchildren.

Betty is married to Herb Chapman; has three children and two grand children.

Doyle married Phyllis Cramer and has five children; eleven grandchildren.

Dorothy is married to Harold Gravengaard and has two children.

Bill (William) is married to Genese Bennett and has two children and four grandchildren.

Edith has five children by Arthur Taylor and nine grandchildren.

Mary Lou is married to Art O'Hare and has five children; two grandchildren.

Crystal is married to Jack Herrick and has one child.

Liva passed away November 26, 1973.

I am sure the Lord was well pleased with her life and greeted her with a word of praise — "Well done Liva" —

"MEMORIAM GRAM" This poem is dedicated lovingly to my grandmother,
Liva P. (Rader) Munn.
By Larry Munn
"A touch of class."
"A cut above,"
A peaceful face,
A look of love.
Kids were her life,
The kitchen her college,
She loved everyone,
This grandma of mine.
Eighty-four years
of toil and of love,
Now she's gone
to God up above.
She never complained,
this grandma of mine,
but helped other people,
Gram was divine . . . *Submitted by her family*

EARL MUSTARD FAMILY

Earl A. Mustard was born in rural Silver Creek, Nebraska. June 15, 1894 to Oscar and Luella (Davis) Mustard. He was the third son in a family of four.

Dorothy Dittmer was born in Minden, Iowa, November 27, 1895, the eleventh child of Henry and Marguerite (Kohl) Dittmer. When she was very young, her mother died, and shortly thereafter the family moved to the Clarks area and established their home four miles east of Clarks near the Platte River.

Earl and Dorothy were married in Columbus March 1, 1918. They lived most of their life in Merrick County except for a couple of years in the Scottsbluff area. Earl served his country in the Army during World War II.

They had a family of ten children, three of whom live in Merrick County today. Robert, of Central City, Nebraska. Mrs. Martin (Darlene) Danklesen and Mrs. Jim (Irma) Janulewicz of Clarks. The others are Earl Jr. of St. Charles, Illinois; L.M. (Jack) of Vallejo, California; Mrs. Harold (Marilyn) Nelson of Lakewood, California; Mrs. Robert (Virginia) Kinney of Norfolk, Nebraska; Hal of Overton, Nebraska; Mrs. Wm. (Faye) Wagner of Fullerton, Nebraska; and Mrs. Forrest (Wilma) Williams of West Point, Nebraska.

Mr. Mustard died in May 1965. At the present time Dorothy Mustard is residing at Bethesda Care Center in Central City, Nebraska. She has thirty-six grandchildren and twenty-nine great grandchildren.

Earl, born July 23, 1920, married Virginia French (deceased) 1963. Married Gloria Zak, children: Dan, Richard, Nancy (Ucherek) and Michael.

Jack, born July 24, 1922. Married Doris Stromberg, children: Larry, Steven and Vickie (deceased).

Darlene, born March 30, 1928, married Martin Danklesen (deceased 1971) children: JoAnn (Newquist) and James E.

Virginia, born December 26, 1930, married Robert Kinney, children: David, Michael, Kathy, Danny and Douglas (deceased).

Hal, born December 28, 1932, married Betty Camin, children: Larry, Sandy (Egglestan) Wendy (Denman).

Marilyn, born February 23, 1933, married Harold Nelson, children: Dorothy (Choat).

Robert, born May 16, 1935, married Mildred Lee, children: Robert, Douglas, Kimberly and Jacque.

Faye, born February 10, 1938, married William Wagner, children: Jeanette (Ruhl), Darrel, Karen and Kevin.

Wilma, born July 1, 1939, married Forrest Williams, children: Forrest A., Steven, Brenda, Tammy and Sue Ann (deceased).

Irma, born October 21, 1940, married Jim Janulewicz, children: Debra (Labenz), Barbara, Janet, Bryan, Paul and Carol. *Submitted by Darlene Dankleson*

MYERS

My mother, Mrs. Edgar Scott (Jenny), born April 3, 1869, arrived in Merrick County from Dunlap, Iowa, in the early 1900's with her first husband Stephen L. Myers, born December 16, 1859, and five children; Cora L., 1889, Richard S., 1891, Helen A., 1893, Glen A., 1898, and Howard S., 1902, as well as a humpback horse, known as "Hump Back Dick" with a reputation of outrunning trains. I mention the horse because it will figure in the Scott-Johnson story.

The family first settled in the little house on the Hord Ranch, just across the track from Chapman. This was just a short time, for they purchased forty acres four miles east of Chapman, across the road from the Ed Mattson farm.

Stephen Myers died in February, 1908, leaving Mother a widow, but with the help of the boys, she managed very well.

Mother's two older daughters married local boys. Cora L. wed Harley Smith, son of the D.C. Smiths who lived just east of Central City, and Helen married Frank Engquist. All members of the first family are now deceased, with the exception of Frank Engquist, who will be 98 in July, 1981, and lives in Colorado with a daughter, Marie.*Submitted by Ruth Scott Johnson*

EVERETT & LUCY MYERS

Everett Myers married Lucy Stephen. They were both born in Merrick County, both attended Merrick County public schools and Nebraska Central Academy.

They were the parents of seven children, one dying in infancy: Margaret (Blum), Gladys (Glantz), Esther (Newsom), Barbara (Lahde), Dean (Killed on Iwo Jima, World War II), and William J.

Before Rural Electrification came for the farmers, Everett was a salesman for Delco Lite Company (a carbide light plant for the farms). Later he was owner of the Triangle Oil Company, buying bulk oil in railroad tank car lots. He was one of the early dealers in Nebraska to import gasoline using truck transports, with offices and filling station in what was then known as the old laundry building on Thirteenth Street now used for apartments (1981).

Everett and Lucy resided in Merrick County until 1943, leaving to live in California to be near the marine base where a son, Dean, was stationed. They also had other children living in California. They resided there till their deaths, and are buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Cypress, California — near Long Beach. *Written by Gladys Myers Glantz*

HAROLD MYERS FAMILY

Harold and Mary Ferguson Myers grew up near Central City. Harold was born near Clarks, Nebraska, on a farm. He was the son of Harrison and Hannah Myers. He moved with his parents, one brother and four sisters, when he was still young, to a home near the College Section of the city (Central City). While in college he participated in athletics and dramatics. He played football, basketball, and was on the track team. Harold took a year off while in college and had a position in the Platte Valley State Bank in Central City. After graduating from college, he took a position as Principal of the Alda Schools in Alda, Nebraska.

Mary Ferguson Myers was born in Iowa, daughter of William B. and Ida Ferguson. She came with her parents, two brothers and three sisters, when she was three years old, to a farm near Clarks, Nebraska. A few years later the family moved to a farm southwest of Central City, where her parents lived until they died in 1937 and 1938. She attended school at District #39, and from there graduated from Nebraska Central Academy. Mary taught school one year near Archer, Nebraska, and the next year at District #8 west of Central City.

Harold Myers and Mary Ferguson met while at Nebraska Central Academy and College. They were married June 7, 1922, at the home of William B. Ferguson between Chapman and Central City. They built a bungalow just west of Central City. That year Harold was offered a position teaching in the Academy at the College, and to be Director of Athletics. This he did for two years. June 19, 1923, we had a son born, Gerald Eugene, who was a joy to us. Harold decided if he was to continue teaching, he needed more education, and that he would like to go to a university in the East. So in June, 1924, we left our little bungalow and Central City for Rhode Island, which we thought would be for four years. Harold attended Brown University and received his Masters Degree in 1927. The next three years he attended Harvard University part-time. In 1932, our second son was born, Thomas Barton Myers, who brought much enjoyment to us. Harold took a position in the High School in Providence, R.I. in 1928, where he taught English and coached track until he retired in 1964. Harold passed away June 23, 1977. Mary still lives in the same house in Cranston, Rhode Island, that they bought new in 1930. *Submitted by Mary W. Myers*

HARRISON & HANNAH MYERS

Harrison Myes was born near Findley, Ohio, March 25, 1857. At the age of six he moved with his parents to Rose Hill, near Oskaloosa, Iowa. In the year 1880, at the age of twenty-three, he came to Nebraska on an immigrant train in the employment of Abraham Sampson. After a few months, Mr. Sampson decided to return to Iowa, and Harrison bought the crops and implements of Mr. Sampson and established himself as an independent farmer, near Clarks where all members of the family were born.

Although Harrison had never met Hannah Abel, who was born February 11, 1863, and also lived near Oskaloosa, Iowa they arrived in Nebraska about the same time. She, with her parents William and Esther Abel, arrived March 2, 1880. The Abels came by Prairie Schooner to Lone Tree, now called Central City. Soon a courtship followed and culminated in their marriage February 3, 1881.



Harrison and Hannah Myers — 1938

Four of their children died while young, and the remaining family consisted of Ida Davison, Everett, Mabel Myers, Esther Watkins, Harold, Inez Mills Klomhaus, and Leona Scofield. Their goal was a well-educated family with a religious background as shown by the zeal and planning in building their next home near the Friends College, Central City, when the children became old enough to enter the Academy. Their home was the center of activity for young as well as older people, and they always found room for one more whenever the occasion arose.

Religious principles as set out by the Friends' Doctrine guided and directed this mother and father. Sincerity, simplicity, and devotion characterized the life of Hannah. No task seemed too hard for Harrison, and regardless of how hard he worked he never used his children to ease his own tasks — he gave himself liberally that they might enjoy the best he could provide.

This home welcomed those promoting the cause of the Kingdom of Heaven; traveling ministers and those attending Friends' Quarterly and Yearly Meetings knew the hospitality always so generously extended.

As evidence of hard times for these pioneers, the sun was used as their time-piece for two years until Harrison bought a clock. Riding in a wagon drawn by a team of horses, enroute home the clock started striking which resulted in a run-away but the clock remained intact and kept correct time for their entire lifetime.

They were privileged to live together over fifty-eight years. Harrison passed away at Central City June 26, 1939, and Hannah's death was January 9, 1951, in San Jose, California, at Esther's home. They are interned in Pierce Chapel Cemetery north of Central City. *Submitted by Leona Myers Scofield*

ROBERT C. McCANN FAMILY

My grandparents, Robert and Mary McCann came from Randolph County, Illinois with the same covered wagon train as the John Wilson family, and they settled in Merrick County, near Palmer, Nebraska. I didn't know this until Harold Wilson (my husband) took me to meet his parents before we were married. He was a son of Samuel and Ada Scudder Wilson, as were Verne, Albert, Andrew, Cecil and Olan (Bus) and one daughter, Blanch Wilson Allen.

Robert C. McCann was born May 18, 1845 in Randolph County, Illinois. He enlisted in the U.S. Army February 8, 1864 and served in Company E, 30th Illinois Infantry in the Civil War. He was married to Mary L. Chambers, August 14, 1865, in Sparta, Illinois. They had ten children: Charles E., June 7, 1866; Albert J., August 14, 1868; Mary E., March 15, 1870; Robert, November 6, 1871; Annie J., November 18, 1873; William George, February 20, 1876; John Wesley, October 28, 1877; Laura B., December 1, 1880; Edith May, November 1, 1883; Norris Everett, January 14, 1887.

John McCann, my father married Menna L. Miller, August 11, 1902. There were three children: Hazel L., St. Paul, Nebraska, 1903 — died 1908; Rosemary, St. Paul, Nebraska, August 21, 1906; Maxine C., Palmer, Nebraska, September 15, 1909.

Harold Wilson and I were married in Clay Center, Nebraska, November 3, 1934. He had one daughter, Connie Lee, born in Clay Center, September 22, 1932, by his first wife, Wilma Bascom (deceased) and we had one son, Donald Harold, born in Shenandoah, Iowa, November 4, 1937.

We lived in Shenandoa, Iowa, Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska and twenty years in Wichita, Kansas. Came to Clay Center to retire in 1971 and Harold died January 12, 1972. *Submitted by Maxine McCann Wilson*

IRWIN & DOROTHY McCLURE

Willis Irwin McClure was born February 6, 1889. He married Dorothy H. Halsey in Fullerton, Nebraska in March 1908. She was born January 1, 1887.

They lived on a farm north of Archer, Nebraska where a daughter, Mildred Lucille was born January 20, 1909.



Irwin and Dorothy McClure — 1958

After several years they took their cattle and farm machinery and moved to Boseman, Montana, then after a few years came back to Archer to farm. Two sons were born, Victor Irwin in 1917 and Rex Dwight in 1919. They bought the McCloud farm, then in the drouth years they lost the farm and later Ralph Severance bought the farm from Federal Land Bank. They sold out then and moved to Central City where they managed two different cafes for several years. In later years they retired.

Irwin McClure died in 1967 and is buried in the Pierce Chapel Cemetery. Dorothy, ninety-four years old still lives in her own home with the help of her daughter. *Submitted by Lucille Rodewald*

McCOLLISTER FAMILY

Milton Starr McCollister and his wife Alta Frink McCollister arrived in Central City March 1, 1920, having lived and farmed in Seward County since their marriage, January 29, 1902.

The little caravan from Goehner consisted of an Overland car, a Raleigh Products Ford "medicine wagon", one set of parents, five daughters, one son and several helpful Seward County friends. All their worldly goods were waiting in a box car on a railroad siding in Central City.

Many times I heard my mother tell about the thrill she felt when they arrived at the hill top over looking the beautiful Platte Valley, and she saw before her the scenic area where their new home would be.

My father was to make a living for his family by selling Raleigh Products in Merrick and Nance Counties. His experiences in that position would fill a book. Negotiating the hills in Nance County in his little wagon was only one of his problems.

Before the family had time to become settled, one of the children came down with small pox. Vaccinations were given but every member of the family contacted the disease. A devastating beginning.

Number one in the lives of my parents was love of family and home. Though never rich in monetary sense they made life rich with love, laughter, togetherness and faith in God.



Milton and Alta McCollister

We lived in many houses through frugal times and each house became a home. My parents loved gardening and improving the property. We literally survived on the produce they grew and preserved. Mothers green thumb produced flowers in abundance, bouquets of roses, delphinium, and sweet peas were shared with her church, friends and family. Her ability with a needle and turning clothing inside out and upside down kept her family clothed. Her grandchildren's fondest memories are of helping bake sugar cookies or fry doughnuts.

Life long membership in the Methodist Church was the center of their lives. Some of their dearest friends were members of the Loyal Sunday School Class. Sunday School, Church, and Epworth League were a must in the lives of their daughters.

My father served his country in the Spanish American War in the Third U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Troop K.

The McCollister's five daughters and four sons-in-law attended Central City Schools. They were Ruby and Frank Chrisp, Grayce and Harold Cudney, Enid and Clifford Currey, Hazel and Bob Lockner (Denver, Colorado), Celia and Willard Black. Their son Dale McCollister died March 26, 1926.

Milton died July 21, 1966 age ninety-three.

Alta died May 19, 1972 age ninety-one.

Interment in Central City Cemetery. Survivors in 1981 — five daughters, three sons-in-law, ten grandchildren, thirty-two great grandchildren, twelve great, great grandchildren. Two grandchildren died in young adulthood. *Contributed by Celia McCollister Black*

FRANK & KATE McCONNELL



Mr. and Mrs. Frank McConnell

Frank McConnell, son of George A. and Mary Effie McConnell, was born in Grand Island, July 5, 1901. His family moved to the Pierce Chapel neighborhood northwest of Clarks, while he was still an infant.

Frank and his family lived close to Prairie Creek when there were still good swimming and fishing holes, and the neighbors all worked together putting up ice in the winter.

Frank and his parents moved to town in 1923, and in July of that year, he and Kate Smith, daughter of Jess and Edith Smith, were married. Most of Kate's growing years were spent in Nance County, then her parents moved to a Merrick County farm shortly before her marriage.

In their working years, Frank and Kate saw many businesses come and go. At one time there were two creameries in Central City and the couple worked in both of them. Frank worked many years at Ross, Cowgill and Hart's hardware store. He worked on radios when they were first becoming popular, and on the well gang when irrigation was fairly new. The group traveled many places in the state drilling wells. He also worked at the ice plant. Eventually, Frank felt he needed a trade for a steady job because he and Kate had a daughter, Selma Jean, and his parents to support. He took a course in plumbing and worked at Ross, Cowgill and Hart's as a plumber and later as a tinner, also, until he went into business for himself.

Kate worked at different things through the years to help supplement the income, then in 1942, Frank and Kate got a root beer barrel, built an 8′ 8′ building and Kate's Root Beer came into being. The business and the building grew until it became a hamburger cafe as well. It was a large part of their lives as they made new acquaintances and acquaintances became old friends through the years. They sold the stand in 1980 and are now in a busy retirement, making a new home at 2613 20th Avenue in Central City.

Frank and Kate have one daughter, three grandsons and four great-grandchildren.

GEORGE & MARY McCONNELL

In the early 1870's, Warren Fish of Illinois and Truman Quick of Michigan, veterans of the Civil War, came with their families to the Clarks area.

In 1891, Alma, only child of Mary (Andrews) and Truman Quick, married Abram, son of Elizabeth (Marshall) and Warren Fish. To this union, Mary, Lottie, John and Charles were born. Upon the early death of the parents, these children were raised by the widowed grandmother Fish, and son Bill. They attended District #57 school.

Mary Fish graduated from Fullerton high school in 1915 and then taught rural schools near Clarks, Ainsworth and Marquette.

Lottie married Frank Madison in 1917 in Clarks, where Ernest, Alice, Andy, Jean, Opal and Frank were born. She later married Frank Gay. She lives in Central City.

John Fish married Laura Cosner. They moved to California with their children Richard, Randall, Phyllis and Rodney.

Charles married Ruth Beck and they farmed the John Beck homestead.

Around 1900, the family of George Adelbert McConnell moved to the Pierce Chapel area from Grand Island where the children, Edna and George Henry had been born. Their mother, formerly Josephine Crumrein, had died and Mr. McConnell then married Effie Graham, who was the mother of Frank McConnell. These children attended Pleasant Hill and Clarks high school.

Edna married Fred Campain and they resided in Central City.

Frank married Kate Smith. They reside in Central City. They have a daughter, Selma.

In 1919, George H. McConnell and Mary E. Fish were married and moved to a farm in the District #50 community. Their five children attended this school and graduated from Central City high School. Francis and Lester served in the Navy during World War II. Francis graduated from Nebraska Central College. Lester took an Electronics Course at Milford Trade School. Jim graduated from the University of Nebraska. Mildred and Letha taught rural schools in Merrick County.

The McConnells farmed on this same place for twenty-eight years, before George died at age forty-nine.

George Francis married Josephine Holmes of Hordville. They reside on their farm east of the



George H. McConnell Family
L-r — Lester, Letha, Mary, Francis, George, Mildred, James.

home place. Their children attended District #50 and graduated from Central City High School. They are Lois (White), George Bernard, Raymond, Vivian (Moeller), and Steven.

Lester married Jean Welsch of Milford and their home is in Sidney. Their children, Leon, Roger, Wayne and Charlene (Spencer) all graduated from Sidney High.

James, who married Alice Gregg, teaches at East High in Lincoln. Lynn Barnard, Alan, Robin, David and Judy graduated from Lincoln Northeast.

Mildred and Kenneth Mesner farm seven miles west of the home place. Their children, Janet, Marilyn, Robert, Martin and Kurt attended District #18 and graduated from Central City High School.

Letha and Donald Grassman live in San Diego, California and their children, Thomas and Candice graduated from high school there.

After George McConnell's death in 1947, Mary taught a rural school near Palmer. In 1960, she married Fred Welsch, residing in Milford until her death in 1976, at the age of eighty-two. *Submitted by Mrs. Francis McConnell*

LESTER MARION McCORMICK

Lester Marion McCormick, a resident of Central City since March, 1944. Born near Silver Creek, on December 12, 1895, now retired from farming and service station employment in Central City. Widowed May 28, 1975, when his wife of over fifty-three years, Florence Bernice Hendrickson McCormick, passed away.

Les, youngest child and youngest son of Christopher Columbus McCormick and Jessie Ann Fishback McCormick, had six older brothers and one older sister. All have now passed away except for one older brother — Willy Lavern — now residing in Blue Rapids, Kansas.

Les' father, Chris, moved his young family westward by covered wagon from Decatur County, Iowa, to the Fairview Church community south of Silver Creek in 1880. Chris purchased a quarter-section of land and on this "home place" Les was born and grew to manhood. He acquired his formal education at the District #7 school. When World War broke out in 1917, he enlisted in the army, rose to the rank of corporal and served in a balloon corps. After the Armistice was signed, he returned to the farm, eventually taking over the farming duties from his aging father.

While attending the Fairview Methodist Church, he met his bride-to-be. Florence was the second-eldest daughter of the preacher of that church. Les and Florence were married on December 19, 1921 by the bride's father, the Reverend William H. Hendrickson. Florence was born at Ragan in Harlan County, on March 1, 1898, attended schools there as well as Kearney College and moved with her parents and family to the sandhills area, where for a time, she lived in a sod house, and eventually to the Fairview Church community.

Les and Florence took up farming and residence on part of the original McCormick home place. There, three children were born — Neal William on December 31, 1924; Laird Jess on January 29, 1931 and Hillis Ann on January 28, 1935. After a farming stint, they moved to Central City.

Neal was graduated from Shelby High School and after service in the army, attended Kearney College and the University of Nebraska. He is married to Geraldine Dolores Innes. They have three children and one grandchild and now reside in Littleton, Colorado where Dr. McCormick is a consultant with the Colorado State Department of Education.

Laird was graduated from Central City High School and after service in the marines also attended Kearney College and the University of Nebraska. He is married to Patsy Ann Reeves, they have six children and four grandchildren and now reside in Lincoln, Nebraska where Mr. McCormick is employed as the band director at the Murdock, Nebraska schools.

Hillis Ann graduated from Central City High School and attended Kearney College. She is married to Dr. Charles E. Skov, they have three children and now reside in Monmouth, Illinois where Dr. Skov is a professor of physics and chemistry at Monmouth College.



Lester McCormick Family

Les enjoys good health and can be seen frequently around Central City riding his bicycle, attending to the farm north of town. He is active in church; commander of the World War II American Legion veterans; and a member of the Masonic Lodge.

MARGARET McCUTCHEON

Margaret McCutcheon was one of my childhood idols. She was the last county superintendent to make the rounds of the rural schools by horse and buggy. As a student at Gardner School northeast of Archer, I was delighted when I looked out of the window to see her tying up her horse.

The fact that she headed immediately for the boys' outhouse in search of graffiti and improper use of sanitary facilities indicated that she was on a tour of inspection. The girls in their innocence wondered why she did not go to the girls'.

I always thought of her visits as gestures of good will. I think I probably was right. I am sure that she always hoped there would be nothing for her to criticize in the teacher's disciplinary and scholastic management of the school. If there was, I don't know when she discussed the matter with the teacher. The children monopolized her time at recess.

She was a handsome woman with her expressive eyes, her reddish brown hair, and her pretty clothes. She had inherited a charm from a charming Irish mother. She was also efficient.

She was always in her office in the basement of the Merrick County Courthouse on Saturdays. She always had time to discuss educational problems with both teachers and parents. She knew how to listen to an irate parent without taking sides with him against the teacher. If a child happened to accompany a parent or a teacher, she always visited a little with the child.

Those of us who remember Margaret McCutcheon, County Superintendent of Public Instruction, do so with respect and affection. *Submitted by Helen Boelts*

PERCY McELWAIN FAMILY

Percy McElwain was born on April 11, 1893 near Galesburg, Illinois, the third son of William H. and Ella McElwain. He attended schools in Illinois, York County, Nebraska and Ft. Collins, Colorado before moving to Central City in 1913. He resided with his family on a farm along the highway about one mile west of town where they fed out the cattle that were raised on their North Park, Colorado ranch. After dividing his time between the ranch, the Central City farm and their home in Denver, he married Marie McReynolds in Denver on July 17, 1917.

The newly-weds spent their first year on a farm northeast of Central City owned by W.H. McElwain and later sold to Henry Stubbe. Although Mrs. McElwain grew up in Chicago and Bloomington, Illinois and Denver, she soon became adjusted to life on the farm. After spending the next two years on the family ranch in Cherry County, Percy and Marie purchased a farm eight miles north and one-half mile west of Central City in 1920.

In 1927 they bought the Percy Gardner place north of District #23 (Gardner) School, and built a new home where they lived for nearly ten years. All of their four daughters were born in Nebraska. Percy was a member of the District #23 board of education for several years and Marie was an active member of the Fairview Ladies Aid Society and the Homemaker's Club.

Eileen attended District #19, District #23, and was graduated from Central City High School in 1936. She attended Nebraska University on a Regent's scholarship for one year before transferring to Colorado State College at Greeley, Colorado, where she earned a degree and a life-time teaching certificate in 1940. Lucile also received her elementary education from Districts #19 and #23 schools. She completed high school in Colorado and attended Colorado State College and later got her degree at Kearney State College. Doris and Marva Lea both completed their education in Colorado. Doris (Southworth) has been an elementary teacher in Westminster, Colorado since 1955.

The McElwains left Merrick County in 1937 after purchasing a wheat and livestock ranch north of Denver. His parents and four brothers had ranches nearby. He continued in the livestock business until the mid-fifties when they moved to their present home in Arvada. Both Mr. and Mrs. McElwain have remained active and alert while well up into their eighties. They both have been avid fisherman and still enjoy trout fishing while at their mountain home near Grand Lake.

Eileen, Doris and Marva Lea married and continued to live in the Denver area where they raised their families. Lucile married Wayne Tyler and moved back to Merrick County in 1947. She and her husband have resided in the Central City and Polk areas. *Submitted by Lucile Tyler*

A McHargue genealogy is on file at Hards Memorial Library.

McHARGUE-DIZNEY

William H. Dizney was born 16 December 1861 in Barbourville, Kentucky. He married Mary E. Fisher who was born 20 December 1866, also, in Barbourville.

William and Mary left Barbourville, Kentucky 7 January 1896 and arrived in Hordville, Nebraska 10 January 1896. There they farmed on the south side of the Platte River from 1896 to 1905. The next two years William owned the livery barn located on the corner where the Hesselgesser Garage now stands in Central City. The next ten years he worked at the Sam Wilson garage located where Safeway is built.

To this union four children were born; Pearl L., born 27 December 1885, died 18 June 1961; Joe J., born 10 November 1887 (he died a few years back); John M., born 14 October 1890, died 10 December 1962; Ora B., born 18 September 1892 died April 1963.

Mary E. Dizney died 5 August 1911. In 1914 William married Maude L., a lady from New York state. William passed away late in December of 1936. Maude passed away in 1948.

Pearl Dizney (their oldest child) married Earl McHargue (born 8 May 1883 in Corbin, Kentucky) 19 April 1905. Earl came to Central City in 1904 when he was twenty-one years old. His first job was on a farm for his Uncle Henry Snodgrass and then he worked for the T.B. Hord Co. Later he acquired his own horse drawn wagon which carried kerosene and oil tanks and he hauled for Standard Oil. His route was from Central City to Marquette, Hordville, Silver Creek, Clarks, Archer, Palmer and Chapman. Earl's hours were long into the night. In 1909 he purchased a farm one and a half miles south of Central City. There they farmed and fed cattle for several years until their retirement to town in 1942.

Earl and Pearl McHargue had five children;



Dizney Livery Stable 1905-1907
(1) Earl McHargue (2) Will Dizney (3) John Dizney (4) Clifford Thomas (5) Bill Wilder

William H., born 30 November 1905, died 26 October 1980; Edward C., born 13 September, 1907, E Eugene, born 3 March, 1910, Bernard L., born 29 August 1912, and M. LaVerne born 10 September 1914.

Earl McHargue passed away 27 January, 1968. *Submitted by Carroll and LaVerne Christensen*

DON & LUCILLE McHARGUE

Don was born February 1911, to Sol and Lucy McHargue, along with two sisters, Elsie Lock and Irene Phares, and two brothers Oscar and Walter. He was born south of town but moved to east edge of Central City on a farm when two years of age. As he grew he acquired a great love for the farm and everything connected with farming, raising hogs, milking cows, feeding and fattening cattle, and not the least, was helping to break and train horses and mules to work the land. One year his light weight team of horses won both the light and heavy weight team pulling contest at the county fair. He also enjoyed a few good saddle horses. Attending Central City schools through high school and a short term in a business school was the extent of his education. On Sundays you would find him in his Baptist Sunday School and church most of the years when growing up.

Lucille, daughter and second child of Charles and Mary Frandsen Martin was born in Omaha, Nebraska, September 1912. At age three moved to St. Paul, Minnesota. Her father having died in 1937, she made her home with her mother. She had one brother Edward who died in 1967. She was an active member of the Methodist Church. Graduating from high school in 1929 she worked two years as a secretary for a wholesale company and eight years with the Farm Credit Administration. In 1947 her mother moved to Central City where she lived until her death in 1965.

Don and Lucille, married in St. Paul, Minnesota May, 1939, lived in Central City a short period before moving back to the home place east of town. There they farmed and fed cattle through the years, first as a partnership with his father and later on his own. They had five children: Marcia, June 1941; Gary, December 1942; Marlene, May 1947; Janice, November 1948; and John, September 1954. The children all attended Central City schools, and four graduated from University of Nebraska and one from Kearney State College, Marcia and Marlene both receiving their Masters degrees.

Marcia, married to I.B. Meshbesher, has three girls, Amantha Elder, Meghan, and Shana, teaches nursing at LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Gary, married Jeanne Marinovich and has two sons, Donald II and Michael. He is a pilot with Western Airlines flying out of Los Angeles. Marlene, married Larry Kuskie, has two children, Jennifer and Kurtis. She is Guidance Counselor at Ravenna, Nebraska schools. Janice married Doug Bolliger, has two children, Angela and Tyson. She is Special Education teacher at Hastings. John married Mary Schwarm, has one daughter Molly. He has taken over farming operations from his father.

The children all attended and were members of the Presbyterian Church with their parents. Their many experiences and associations with the church were invaluable in their direction and decisions while growing up.

Don and Lucille moved into Central City in 1974 where they are now enjoying their retirement from the farm.



Don and Lucille McHargue

HIRAM McHARGUE FAMILY

Hiram McHargue and Eula Willhoft were married March 9, 1927, in Christ Church Episcopal at Central City. We spent our honeymoon in Lincoln. For our Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in 1977 we entertained at a family dinner at Dreisbachs in Grand Island.

Hiram was born at Corbin, Laural County, Kentucky, June 20, 1907, to Abijah and Sallie (Ohler) McHargue, the fifth of five children. He came with his parents to Merrick County at the age of one. When he was three years old his mother passed away and he was then raised by his father. He attended rural school district #20 which was known as the Home Ranch School. Later he served on the school board for twenty-five years.

I was born six miles west of Central City to John and Ida (Phelps) Willhoft, the fifth of seven children. I attended the city schools graduating with the class of 1926. My grandfather Phelps grew up in Henry County, Illinois, and as a young man enlisted in Company C, Ninth Illinois Calvary, September 10, 1861, and was mustered out of the Civil War at Springfield, Illinois, November 1864. In 1868 he and his wife, Susan Amelia, came overland to Lone Tree, Nebraksa. They homesteaded west of town. Later they purchased a home one mile east of Central City after the owner was killed in the cyclone of 1871, which picked him up and threw him into a cottonwood tree. This farm was our home for thirty-three years and is still in the family.

Hiram is a farmer-stockman and a lover of horses, taking a keen interest in the former Merrick County Saddle Club and its activities. He is a member of the Episcopal Church, serving on the Vestry, Merrick County Farm Bureau and Elks Lodge #604 at Grand Island.

I am a life member of the Episcopal Church belonging to the Guild and Altar Guild. In the past, I have been organist, superintendent and teacher of the church school, member of the American Legion Auxiliary and Hospital Auxiliary and a Pink Lady and worker at the Thrift Shop.

We have four children: Kenneth, farmer and Cedar Lumber Business; Thomas, farmer-stockman and spent four years in the United States Air Force during the Korean conflict; Mrs. Murry (Lorraine) Guilford, Fort Worth, Texas, employee of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.; Mrs. Verl (Rosemary) Nelson, Minden, Nebraska, school teacher. Grandchildren: Alan, Claudia, Joe, LeRoy, Scot, Roxanne, Dan, Marissa, Minette, Laura, Steven, Kirk and Todd. We also have eight great-grandchildren.



Eula and Hiram McHargue

We are retired and live at 2020 15th Avenue, Central City. We have had a good life and enjoy our family and community. We have had numerous leisurely trips in various parts of the United States. These years have been a fantastic time to live in this world. *Submitted by Eula McHargue*

SOL & LUCY McHARGUE

Sol McHargue, son of Hiram and Rosa Terrell McHargue, was born in Knox County, Kentucky September 1879 — died February 1966. Lucy McHargue, daughter of William and Francis Jones was born in Laurel County, Kentucky, June 1880 — died February 1972.

Lucy came from a family of twelve. She told of shearing sheep, carding, washing and spinning yarn, knitting socks, sweaters, etc. in her youth. She also helped in the fields where corn was planted and tended by hand. Her greatest joy in growing up in the hills of Kentucky was the truly rich Christian heritage handed down by her parents, to whom they were so dedicated. She was able to attend many camp meetings in different areas. Her job was to play the pump organ when her father would serve as lay minister.

Sol's early life was spent on his father's farm in Kentucky — interspersed with work at his saw mill,



Sol and Lucy McHargue

at which, among other things, they sawed and furnished oak cross-ties for the railroad. The ties were hauled into Corbin, Kentucky, a rail center at that time, and sold for 25¢ each, if they passed inspection. At twenty-one he went on his own and worked in a coal mine for six months. Although the wages were good, he decided there should be a better way, so in 1904 he ventured to Merrick County, Nebraska with his brother, Earl. They worked for an uncle, Henry Snodgrass, whose custom was to use the lantern both ends of the day, even in summertime, to get the work done. They became discouraged and were walking to town, heading back to Kentucky, when they were approached by Arthur Anthony who had observed that they were good workers. He talked them into staying and working at what is now the Campbell farm west of Central City. Later, Sol worked for the Hord Company at Thummel ranch, five miles east of Central City. He returned to Kentucky where he married Lucy Jones, and then returned to Central City in 1906. In the years following, both of their families would follow Sol and Lucy to Central City. In 1907 they moved west of town to what was known at that time as Irish Town where they enjoyed wonderful neighbors. Two of their children were born there. Elsie in April, 1907 and Oscar December, 1908. They then moved south of town where Don was born February 1911. Sol, having no education, desired to live close to town so his children could obtain high school educations, which was the ultimate at that time. Therefore in 1912 they purchased the farm where John McHargue, a grandson, now resides east of Central City. They moved just in time for Walter to be born in February 1913 and Irene in November 1917. Retiring from the farm in 1940 they moved to town until Sol's death in 1966. After a period Lucy moved into Merrick Manor, where she was comfortable until her death.

Sol farmed and fed cattle and was the second farmer in Merrick County to initiate irrigation. He enjoyed farming and cattle dealing. but most of all he and Lucy enjoyed their host of friends and their children who all made their home in this vicinity. *Submitted by Don McHargue*

S.B. McHENRY FAMILY

Sidney and Bertha McHenry came from Lancaster County to Merrick County in 1915. They bought the old Shattuck farm, one mile south and one-fourth mile east of Archer (this is presently the Cecil Glause farm). There Mr. McHenry and their two sons farmed until Mr.McHenry's death in 1936. Raymond moved to Wisconsin in about 1928.

In 1926, Mr. and Mrs. McHenry's daughter, Mrs. Fern Young, and her two daughters, Betty and Margaret, came to make their home with the McHenry's, after the death of Mrs. Young's husband, Roy Young.

Fern gave music lessons to many young people around Archer and Central City. She had graduated in music from the Fremont Normal in Fremont, Nebraska in 1913. Roy Young graduated the same year and was superintendent of schools in eastern Nebraska schools until he entered the ministry of the United Methodist Church in 1922. He died in 1926.

Betty Young, daughter of Roy and Fern Young, finished school in Archer, then graduated from Nebraska Central College in Central City. She taught school in Burwell, Hastings, Central City, Chicago, and Lincoln. Betty then came to Central City, where she taught piano and organ and did social service work at Bethesda Care Center, where Fern Young resided the last few years.

Margaret Young was married to Dr. Lee Holmes in 1948. He died in 1971. In 1980, she was married to John Vergo. She has always resided in Central City. *Submitted by Margaret Vergo and Betty Young*

ELIJAH McKENDRY II

My Civil War days ended near Beverly, West Virginia, in January 1865. I was soon back home in Crooked Tree, Ohio, where I married Margaret Jane Davis. She blessed us with Charles in 1868 and John in 1870. Our Western migration in early 1871 ended near Lone Tree, Nebraska, on the heels of a disastrous tornado. But we stayed.

William and Clara were born there in 1872 and 1874. Both died during infancy.

We nearly froze during the blizzard of April 14, 1873. In 1874 I homesteaded 160 acres of land three miles north and two miles east of what is now called Archer. Lumber was scarce. We built a "soddie". Digging building blocks from the prairie was not a pleasure. We put a lot of our lives into that project.

Grasshoppers devoured our crops in 1874 and 1875. Jessie was born in 1876. In June of that year, another savage tornado scared and scarred Merrick County. Margaret and I then abandoned our "soddie" and moved into a small farm house near Central City (changed from Lone Tree in 1875). Albert was born there in 1878 and Winifred in 1881.

A terrifying hail storm tore the roof off that house in 1882. Lenna was born in August of that year.

Come spring of 1887, we rented a small farm near Prairie Creek, abutting the south side of Archer — later known as the "Creamery Place". Shortly after that transplant, we committed ourselves to a 160 acre "Timber Claim" two miles north of Archer. While living there, Charles, John and I planted many small trees to satisfy our contractual obligations.

On January 12, 1888, another blizzard swept over the land, killing our horses, a cow, four hogs and several chickens. Archie was born in May that same year.

We started construction of a "wooden" house on the "Timber Claim" about 1890. Lumber was hauled from Central City when we could afford it and when a team could be spared from the field. Charles, John and I sawed and nailed between chores and after supper each night until completed a year later.

Albert was killed in 1895, at the age of seventeen, by an exploding double tree, while driving a "haystacker" team. Our last child, Leon, was born January 3, 1893.



Margaret Jane Davis McKendry — Elijah McKendry II

Charles became the victim of typhoid fever and died in 1901.

By that time, all the children had either married or otherwise flown. Margaret and I moved into "down-town" Archer. I took up shoe repairing. Margaret sewed remnants of cloth from which she loomed and sold rag-rugs. This provided sufficient livelihood until we accepted Winifred's kind offer to join her in Colorado Springs about 1916. She continued to care for us after she and her two children moved to Redlands, California, September 1920.

I met my demise there in 1922 and Mother Margaret Jane, bless her heart, received her heavenly reward in 1924. *Submitted by Raymond U. Morse (from my graveside in Redlands, California) (Elijah McKendry II (1844-1922)*

JOHN McKENDRY FAMILY

John, second son of Margaret Jane Davis McKendry and Elijah McKendry II, was born September 28, 1870, in Crooked Tree, Ohio. In 1871, the family moved to Nebraska where land was free for the settling. They settled near what is now called Archer, in the late summer of that year. His parents dug blocks from the deep grassy plains and fashioned a "soddie" where the family, ever increasing in size, existed until he was fourteen.



John McKendry



Florence Cornelia Farnham McKendry

After experiencing many hardships for twenty six years, he met the sweet and petite poetess, Florence Cornelia (Nellie) Farnham (born September 18, 1874 in Galesburg, Illinois). They were married April 8, 1897, and took residence in Archer. John tended a cream pick-up route until the Archer Creamery apprenticed him as a butter maker.

Edwin Lyle was born February 2, 1898; Merton L., June 7, 1900; Mildred L., April 17, 1902; Margaret E. November 3, 1904; and Florence Jean, September 15, 1908.

About 1908, John was offered a chief butter maker's job in Central City. He moved his family to a property on Main Street (now part of down town Central City). Here, John K. was born October 2, 1914.

By 1916, oil prosperity in Casper, Wyoming, beckoned John and Nellie. Early next year, 1917, the family entrained for that promised land and Lyle went off to fight the kaiser. It was a new beginning with great hope. A small house was built at 1136 Poplar Street (which they later refurbished and kept their entire lives). He worked in the local oil refinery, and filed a 640 acre claim about two miles north of Casper. A small board-and-batten house was built, and they moved the entire brood. He constructed a small shelter to house one cow and a team of horses. An ancient Model T Ford was acquired. He commuted to work, and daily hauled three milk cans — five gallons each — from which he supplied his family and stock, and watered the garden. Many long and hard hours were spent by John and Nellie to quaiify for a homestead patent.

They moved back into Casper and John accepted a job of teamster, hauling freight between Casper and Midwest. Their last child, Wyoma Lee, was born in Casper December 13, 1920. Soon thereafter, they moved to Midwest, where John had a job as bookkeeper for the Midwest Oil Company.

By 1927, John had moved his family back to Casper and continued to work for the Midwest Oil Company.

Wyoma Lee graduated from high school in 1937 and accepted a training course for professional nursing. John settled down to a life of retirement, but continued to live at "1136" (part of the house was occupied by Mildred and her husband). Lyle and Merton had taken Jean and moved to find their fortunes in Calipatria, California. John, Jr., had flown the home nest in search of an education in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Margaret was making plans for marriage and an "oil" career in Aruba, Netherlands Antilles.

John and Nellie finally attained a long lived desire to see California in 1946. On the following May 18, 1947 he met his heavenly reward, and Nellie followed on January 26, 1954. *Submitted by Ray U. Morse from information provided by Margaret and Wyoma Lee*

WILLIAM McKENNEY FAMILY

My father, William L. McKenney, was born in Ohio in 1860. He came to Nebraska as a young man and bought a farm near Malcolm. There he met Nell Copeland, the country school teacher, and they were married in 1894. My brother, Forrest, and I were born on that farm.

In 1900, when Grandpa Copeland wanted to leave the farm and move to town, my parents came to Palmer and took over the farm. My sister Doris was born there the next year.

Times were hard and crops poor, and my mother started raising chickens. She wrote articles for the Nebraska Farmer, and they offered her the positon of Poultry Editor, which, along with the Home Department and the Children's Page, she kept for twenty years.

In 1909, dad bought a little cream-buying station. There were trains in those days, both passenger and freight, and often, long waits. Hungry passengers created a demand, and the cream station became a lunch room, and soon a bakery was added, with a hired baker. In 1910 we moved to town to take care of the business. The folks bought the house across the street, which was torn down in 1961.

As grandfather grew older, my father took over the implement and coal business, and mother ran the Bakery and Lunch Room, with the help of my sister and myself, and occasionally my Aunt Josephine. The baker left, and mother took over the baking, and I often helped, baking a dozen or more pies, cookies, cakes, buns, and often one hundred loaves a bread a day, which sold for 5¢ a loaf, six for 25¢.

When we moved to town we brought a horse and buggy, but in 1915, mother and Aunt Jo together bought a 1913 Model T Ford for $250. From then on our chief diversions were swimming parties at the river, and camping trips. It took three days to drive to Denver, camping along the road at night.

We moved to Lincoln in 1919, as we three were in college. In 1923, my sister graduated and married, I was teaching, and Forrest was working for the Burlington. The folks then moved back and started Palmer's first Hatchery.

After my father's death in 1929, mother lived with me for a few years, but came back to the old home in Palmer in 1934 or 35. When I went to Wilmington, California to teach, in 1948, she joined me and lived there twelve years. But the old home town still drew her, and when her sister, Josephine, who had married Bill Best, raised his three daughters, retired to California, and now widowed, was coming back to Palmer, she came, too. They moved into the old Copeland house to spend the rest of their lives. Three years later I retired and came back to live with them. Because we all loved the Lord, we could live together in harmony. She passed away the day after her 104th birthday, May 29, 1974. My Aunt Josephine passed away September 10, 1979. My brother and sister have both been gone for several years, but I am still going strong at eighty-two. Thanks be to God. *Written by Ruth McKenney*

McLEAN-BENDER

Robert E. McLean was born August 5, 1880, to John and Mary (Hartwell) McLean. He and Cora Sanders were married in 1904. In 1905, they moved to Phillips, Nebraska where he managed the Foster Lumber Yard. In 1911 they returned to Clarks, at which time he and his father-in-law, Frank M. Sanders, started a grocery store. The McLeans only daughter, Fay, lived in Columbus, Nebraska and Laramie, Wyoming. Fay and Francis (Fritz) Bender were married April 15, 1925 in Laramie. The McLeans moved back to Clarks in 1930. During the years in Clarks, "Bob" was a member of the School Board, Town Board, had served as Mayor and was Postmaster. He and his son-in-law, (Fritz Bender) started a grocery store in the old Campbell building, February 9, 1935. Bob was active in this business until his health failed. He died March 3, 1950. Fritz and Fay continued operating the store till they sold out and retired in January 1968.

Fay gave music lessons in Laramie, Wyoming, and at Clarks, Nebraska for many years.

Fritz has been substitute and temporary mail carrier since June 1932. At that time the mail route was thirty-five miles long. Today it is 116 miles long. *Submitted by Fay Bender*



W. L. McKenney

JOHN McLEAN FAMILY

John McLean was born in Monaghan County Ireland. Mrs. John McLean, one daughter and sons John Jr., William, Robert and Aleck came to Ogdenbyrg, New York. By 1867 the boys were in McHenry, Illinois. They spent winters cutting wood. Wm. hired out as a harvest worker in the summer. John farmed. John Jr. 1837-1900 married Jane Chesley(1847-1922). Wm. 1854-1893 married her sister Anna 1854-1911. They were daughters of Nathaniel Chesley. Some of the brothers served in the Union Army and came to Merrick County in the early '70's. Robert settled at Silver Creek, Wm. and John at Clarks and Aleck at Cozad.

The Chesley family also came to Clarks. There were also four sons — Nat, Drew, Ivory and Sylvester. Drew lived at Central City and raised a large family, sons Carl, Harold, and Earl who lived in Central City, and several daughters, one being Ruth (Mrs. Alfred), William of Central City. Ivory settled at Fullerton, had three daughters, Maude (Slingman) Hazel (Riddell) and Gladys who is Mrs. Lee Bailey of Central City.

The John McLean Jr. family moved to a farm in Holt County, then to Omaha where they operated a dairy. They later moved back to Clarks and John was a drayman. They had seven sons, William, Albert, Walter, Fred, Wallace Lenard and Clyde. Only Lenard (Len) 1881-1975 remained in Merrick County living on a farm eight and one-half miles northwest of Clarks. He married Iva Inbody (1891-1968), daughter of Jake Inbody of Clarks. They had two sons. Glen is retired in Central City, has a son Francis and daughter Elaine Shea. Leonard now has the family farm and has a son Dennis and daughter LeAnne.

William spent his life on the farm he had homesteaded. His journal has some interesting facts —

Received $75 for five months work; $3.15 for twenty-one pounds butter; $4.00 for twenty head of fat cattle; $10.00 for twenty-five bushel corn. Paid $50 for diphtheria prevention; $25 for fifty-one pounds nail; $1.00 for 250 pounds; coal $1.76 for twenty-two pounds. beef $65 for six pound bacon;$.65 for overalls; $13.00 to Wm. Douglas for 500 pounds flour. *Submitted by Mildred McLean Dittmer*

WILLIAM McLEAN FAMILY

Wm. McLean, 1841-1893, married Anna Chesley 1854-1911, at Harmon, Illinois on January 1870. They homesteaded a farm northeast of Clarks. He was very active in community affairs, serving many years on the Clarks school board. *(His diary)*—

May 30, 1892 — We all attended decorative exercises. The G.A.R. post presented the school district with a flag. H. Austin delivered the address. I received the flag in behalf of the district.

June 10 — Wm. Adams, Cal Ray and myself have been viewing the roads and making an estimate on the amount of money required to repair the four main roads leading to Clarks, or more properly speaking, the proportion of $1500 each is entitled to.

June 17 — Went to Omaha. I got examined by two expert M.D.s. One said the possibilities that I would die of consumption unless I took a change of climate.

July 4 — Celebrated in Fullerton. Lots of people, trotting races and running races.

October 2 — Went up to Central City Monday. Been attending fair four days selling tickets. Rest of family attended one day. Stayed at Phelps house.

October 12 — Went to Central City to meet with the Board of Agriculture.

October 14 — Commenced threshing. Alfred and Joe Sweet, Lutie White, Charlie Rose, A.J. Robinson, George Rose, Mike Donnely, Mr. Morgan and Milan Jennings helped.

November 8 — Served on election board.

November 9 — Got ballots counted at seven this morning. I took the returns to Central City on the local.

December 2 — Visited school with H.M. Kokjer
1893 March 24 — Elmer went to town school to see the exercises. This is one of their big days.

May 30 — A year ago attended services. Today can hardly walk.

Children — Delbert 1872; Edna 1875 married Arnold Schrawger; Elmer 1878, married, moved to South Dakota, had daughters. Took shipment of cattle to Omaha intended to come visit his mother at Clarks before going home but was never heard from again; Frank — 1880 — married, lived on Pawnee Ranch then California; Lloyd — 1885, married went to California, one daughter, two sons; Verne — 1883-1977 remained on the home place. Married Mae Hulit (1889-1977), daughter of Wm. Hulit, at Hastings April 6, 1910. After his mother's death they moved to a farm four and one-half miles northwest of Clarks. He farmed twenty-five years and served on Pleasant Hill school board. He was a McNess dealer, assessor for Clarksville township, finally retiring in Clarks.

The children, all graduating from Clarks are Valeta 1911 (Mrs. Kenneth Graves, Florence Oregon, son Larry, daughter Donna Price); Wm. 1912, (married Velma Grosvenor, live in Central City, children Pat Ostrander, Rosa Crook, Jerry Peterson and George); Mildred 1916 (Mrs. Raymond Dittmer of Clarks, children Ronna Graskowiak, Lanny, Jim and Dick, deceased); Bonnie (Smith) 1923 (Corvallis Oregon, children Gary, Douglas, Lori, Denise, Rick and Mardee.). *Submitted by Mildred McLean Dittmer*

WILLIAM & VELMA McLEAN

This segment of the McLean history began in 1931 when Velma Rose Grosvenor (b. 21 September 1909), began her fourth year of rural teaching in District #15 of Merrick County. At this time teachers were required to reside in the district where they taught. Velma was "boarding" with Ruthie (Beck) Fish when she met William LaVerne (Mac) McLean (b. 26 September, 1912). Three years later on June 16, 1934, Velma and Mac were married at York, Nebraska.

To survive the economic rigors of the late 1930's, Mac was employed at first on Merrick County farms where the "going" wage was 50¢ a day and your dinner. Of course, eggs were 8¢ a dozen and hamburger 3 pounds for 25¢.

In 1936 Mac went to work for Morrison — Knutson in their railend welding branch known as Teleweld. This work took them into thirty-eight states in eight years. Their family began to arrive and the nomadic life was over. They purchased a home in Clarks, Nebraska where all four of their children graduated from high school. Velma taught thirty-five years in Clarks, Silver Creek, and Central City schools. Mac worked for Grosshans International Pontiac as their shop foreman for this same period of time.

The genealogy of the family who ended the travelling life of the McLeans follows: Patricia Jill McLean married Wayne Edward Ostrander December, 31, 1955. Wayne is the Meat Manager for Jim's Foods at the Central City Mall and has been with them for twenty-five years. Pat is the office manager for Larson Chevrolet. They are the parents of seven children: Rex, chemical engineer for Texaco in Oklahoma, married to Christy Sugharou, Dale, a second year Medical student at UNL at Omaha, Teri, (Mrs. Kevin) Schuller, a teacher's aide in Central City and part time student at UNL, Marc, a senior at UNL, Cherry Jo, a junior at UNL, Rick, freshman at UNL, and Melodie June, a 1981 graduate of Central City High School.

Rosa Mae married Gary J. Crook August 5, 1960. Gary is a Major in the US Air Force at Lincoln. Rosa is a Lab supervisor for PMS at Lincoln. They have one child, Meghan Michelle, a first grader in Calvert School, Lincoln.

Jerry Lu married Spencer Alan Peterson July 6, 1958. Spencer is a station supervisor for UPRR at Cheyenne, Wyoming. Jerry Lu is an employee of Cheyenne Public Schools. Their three children are: Pepper Ann (Mrs. Richard) Pennell, LPN at Eventide Care Home in Cheyenne, Tracy Lynn, hostess at Denny's Steak House, Cheyenne, and William Edward, eighth grade student at Gary Junior High, Cheyenne.

George LaVerne married Carol Lower August 8, 1965. George, M.D., is on the staff at Lincoln General Hospital in Lincoln as an anaesthesiologist. Their two children are Kelly LaVerne, sixth grade and Alisa Marie, third grade at Lincoln Christian Elementary in Lincoln.

So far there is no fourth generation in this family.

Velma retired from teaching in 1975 and Mac retired from Grosshans, Inc. in 1978. At present he is employed by the Central City Park Department *Submitted by Velma McLean*

CLYDE & GERTRUDE McMAHON

Clyde and Gertrude McMahon were married in July of 1917. They were parents of five children.

Farrell C., born January 31, 1920, died in the service of his country on March 20, 1944 in New Guinea. He is buried in Jefferson National Cemetery, St. Louis, Missouri. Peter T., born October 7, 1922, served in the U.S. Ski troops in the Italian campaign of World War II. He farmed and was rural mail carrier on Chapman route until he retired with disability in June 1980. Gertrude M., born May 2, 1930, a Sister of Mercy named Sister Seraphia, she has served as head of music department at the College of St.Mary in Omaha. She is now in hospital administration work in Mercy Hospital, Des Moines, Iowa. Kathleen, born October 12, 1931, is now Mrs. J.E. Sullivan of Pueblo, Colo. They lived in California for twenty-six years. They have five children and one grandchild. Elizabeth Ann, born February 23, 1933, was also a Sister of Mercy for fourteen years. Her name was Sister Mary Sarto. A registed nurse, she died of leukemia in 1968. All of the children were graduates of Central City High School.

On Clyde's side of the family, his paternal grandmother Jane (Moran) McMahon lived in Merrick County a number of years. She came to be near three of her sons. Clyde's father, Peter H. and mother, Mary (Dennighen) McMahon, both came from Canada and raised four sons and two daughters in Irishtown.

On Gertrude's side of the family, her father, Thomas F. Farrell, came with his parents, John and Cathrine (O'Connor) Farrell, in 1869. He farmed in the Irishtown area and served as state Senator from the 18th District from 1897 through 1901. Sarah (Gallagher) Farrell came with her parents, Barney and Mary (Tierney) Gallagher to Palmer in the 1870's. Tom and Sarah raised two sons and five daughters.



Clyde and Gertrude McMahon

Clyde McMahon was born September 12, 1890 and Gertrude (Farrell) was born April 8, 1895. They still live on the same farm where they moved when they were married in July 1917. It is within two miles of the birthplaces of both. They have been members of the St. Michaels Catholic Church throughout their lives. Many trials have been endured as well as much happiness enjoyed. Living next to Highway 30, they have assisted many travellers in distress. *Submitted by Pete McMahon*



Peter McMahon Children — 1895
L-r — Anna, Clyde, Marie, William, James

JAMES F. & JAMES B. McMAHON FAMILIES

Peter McMahon followed in the footsteps of his brother, John, when he moved to Central City from Ontario, Canada in 1877. They located southwest of Central City in an area which was to become known as "Irish Town". One year later, his fiance, Mary Dinghen, came to Nebraska. They met and were married in Omaha, and he brought his wife home. Six children were born to this union, and when each of them married, they were given 120 acres of land and a home.



James F. and Hazel McMahon

One of the children was James F. McMahon. In 1911, he married Hazel Baker, the daughter of George and Cora Newcomer Baker. The Bakers were in the sheep business, and at one time worked for the Hord family. Hazel was well known for her love of flowers and her flower gardens. One son, James Baker McMahon was born to them. They spent all their married life on the land his father settled. Jim died in 1965, and Hazel in 1978.

James B. McMahon married Janet Willeman, daughter of Lloyd and Winifred Farnham Willeman of the Fairview Church community, on June 20, 1938. They moved to a farm north of his parents, which they eventually purchased in 1945. Jim became an innovator in the area when he began using liquid fertilizer in the 1950's. The fertilizer originally came in fifty-five gallon barrels from Rochelle, Illinois. He began selling liquid fertilizer in the mid 50's, and eventually moved his sales to



James B. McMahon Family
Back l-r — Jack, Tom. **Middle** — Judy, Jo. **Front l-r** — Janet, James B.

Paddock Siding, later originating the Paddock Fertilizer Co. In his tenure of selling fertilizer the company was associated with Seward Fertilizer, and later with the Gulf Oil Corporation.

Jim and Janet had four children; James T. (Tom) was born in 1939, John (Jack) in 1942, Judy in 1944 and Jo in 1946. Judy married Wendell Roscoe in 1964, and their children are Mickey, Mindi and Mia. Tom and Pat Kokes of Ord were married in 1965 and are parents of Jennifer, Jason and James K. Jack married Carmen Benz of O'Neill in 1968, and their children are Tim, Shannon, Erin and Patrick. Jo and Dick Vacek of Ravenna were married in 1969, and are parents of Marc and Ginger.

Jim, Tom and Jack formed the McMahon Farms partnership in 1969. Jim took primary responsibility for the fertilizer sales and Tom and Jack expanded the farming operation. In 1973 Jo and Dick became a part of the farming effort, but left in 1975 to enable Dick to assume his own father's farming operation near Ravenna. Following James B. McMahon's untimely death in 1972, the fertilizer company was sold, and Tom and Jack continue in the farming partnership

One subject which renews fond memories to this McMahon family through all it's generations, is baseball. Grandpa Jim played baseball for the town of Central City at a time when the team would travel to many areas of Nebraska for a good Sunday baseball game. Son Jim followed in his footsteps and was on the town baseball team in the 30's and 40's. By the time Tom and Jack came on the scene, baseball was an organized past time for the young fry. They played the game from little league through legion with Grandpa Jim coaching them, and on to town team baseball. The love of the sport did not stop there, as Mickey Roscoe and Tim McMahon are currently on Central City teams, with hopes of more family members to be there in years to come. *Submitted By Janet McMahon And Children.*

EDWARD McMAHON FAMILY

Edward Michael was born October 6, 1898, to Roselia and Mike McMahon, on the farm where he still lives. He married Mary Eleanor Halstead June 1, 1923. Mary was born December 5, 1903, to Dallas and Ida Gorman Halstead, at Silver Creek. She died July 23, 1978. They were married for 57 years, and celebrated their GOLDEN Anniversary June, 1973. They had four children: Dallas, Ida Marie, Roselia, and Gloria. There are 16 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

Edward's maternal grandparents were Richard Locke Mills and Elizabeth Eliza Knight Mills. They were born, raised, and married in England and immigrated to this country with the Mormans to Utah. They left Utah in 1862, because they did not believe in polygamy. They homesteaded three miles east of Central City. They had 9 children: Roselia Lillian was the oldest (the mother of Edward), Erasmus, Emma Taylor, William, Selina Kidder, Elizabeth Daniels, George, Susan Baird and Annie Baird.

Paternal grandparents were Thomas and Jane Moran McMahon. They were born raised, and married in Ireland and immigrated to Canada. There were 6 children: John, Pete, Rose, Kate, Pat and Mike (Edward's father).

They moved to Chicago in 1868, when Mike was 10 years old. They lived there during the Big Chicago Fire. (According to Mike, the McMahons bought their milk from Mrs. O'Leary, whose cow was supposed to have kicked over the lantern that started the Fire??????)

The family moved to Nebraska four miles west of Central City, in 1877. Mike went to work for the Union Pacific Railroad. Roselia Mills and Mike McMahon were married in 1882, and had 14 children. Five died in childhood of diphtheria. The nine surviving were: Elizabeth Broman, Rose Marquis Powell, Tressie Hilligas, Francis Filbin Fitzgerald, Edward, Charles, Eva Bolling, Jaunita Baker, and Vincent. Mike died in 1946: Roselia died in 1950. They were charter members of St. Michaels Church. Roselia joined the Catholic Church before her marriage.



Mary and Ed McMahon — June 1, 1923

Edward and Mary's son, Dallas, married Peggy Shields and they had four children: Mike, Pat, Rose and John. Dallas died March, 1969.

Their daughter, Ida Marie, married Gerald Maxon Gee and they have five daughters: Diane Evers, Rebecca Sealey, Hyla McLean, Barbara Seymour, and Patricia McHargue.

Daughter Roselia married Joe Stanislav, and they had 4 children: Maxon, Pamela Jo (Died at birth), Jolene Anis, and Marcia George.

Daughter Gloria married Wilbur "Casey" Jones. They had four children: David, Georgia, Vance and Angela.

BASEBALL is Edward's favorite sport, having played a lot with "The Irishtown Ball Team" and known as the tall SKINNY Irishman. Then there were the Bowling Alley years, "RITE-WAY alleys," owned by The Finlaysons. Edward worked and bowled at the alleys and Mary kept score. Their friends appreciated Mary's frankness, because they knew exactly where they stood with her. She did not talk out of both corners of her mouth. If she liked you, you knew it, and if she didn't, you knew it. Living with Mary was a HAPPY experience, for none of us can think of one sad thing she ever said. Always funny sayings or stories. *Submitted by Edward Michael McMahon.*

R.O. & IVA McNURLIN

Richard Osborne McNurlin was born near Plattsmouth on April 17, 1878. Florence Iva (Near) McNurlin was born March 21, 1882 in Caledonia, Michigan. She came to Nebraska with her parents at an early age. Richard and Iva McNurlin were married in Council Bluffs, Iowa on December 2, 1902. They lived in Council Bluffs and Weeping Water before coming to Central City in 1909. They operated a cafe known as Mac's Place in Central City until 1923, when they built one of Nebraska's first tourist camps in conjunction with a Texaco service station and bulk plant they owned. In 1931 they built a swimming pool just west of the tourist camp to be used as a convenience to the tourist trade. They soon opened it up for the local people and it was the only swimming pool in the town until the city built the present city pool. In 1946, the McNurlin's began the operation of the Lone Tree Drive-In just west of town.



Mr. R. O. McNurlin, white shirt, at Texaco Station

Mr. McNurlin died July 18, 1949. In 1950, Mrs. McNurlin began employment as a bookkeeper with Beatrice Foods. She passed away March 29, 1969. Both Mr. and Mrs. McNurlin were very active in Masonic and Eastern Star organizations. In 1923 Mrs. McNurlin organized and was the first Bethel Guardian of Bethel #7, as well as serving as Grand Guardian of Nebraska in 1933. An editorial printed in the Central City Nonpareil, date July 21, 1949, at the time of Mr. McNurlin's death stated in part "He signed his name R.O. McNurlin, but he never answered when you called him Mr. McNurlin. Yell, "Hey, Mac!" and you'd have his prompt attention. Twenty years from now the old-timers probably will be telling yet the things Mac did and said. A new generation of listeners will smile indulgently, a little skeptical of the tales of an almost incredible man, whose thoughts, comments and actions could never, never be predicted.

Mac made an indelible impression upon Central City, much as Will Rogers did upon the nation: Like Will Rogers, he detested both big-shot-itis and airy inflation in argument. With Mac present, no man could safely rest upon pompous dignity alone: and Mac never was carried away by popular enthusiasm for a fad, just because everyone else was swallowing a bait of glittering generalities. The strange thing is that those who felt his sting the worst are the ones who will miss him most. They all agree, he was a great guy."

The McNurlins had no children of their own, but in 1926 they took Mrs. McNurlin's nephew, Joseph Broom, age thirteen, from Buffalo, N.Y., into their home and raised him as their own son. Joseph was born December 27, 1912 in Buffalo. He graduated from the Central City High School in 1931 and has remained a Central City resident. He assisted in the operation of the McNurlins' many enterprises. On September 8, 1934, Joe married Garnet Gross who was born in Grand Island on August 3, 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Broom had two daughters, Marcia Broom Pierson of Marquette, Nebraska and Joanne Broom Spotanski, of Grand Island, Nebraska. *Submitted By Joseph Broom*

ERNEST J. NABITY FAMILY

We are the only family left in Merrick County with the Nabity name. We live on a farm which Ernie's parents purchased from Sam Magnuson in 1948. We were married August 20, 1955 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nebraska City, the city in which I was born. I am the youngest of eight children. I attended Mt. St. Scholastica College in Atchison, Kansas for two years and finished my undergraduate degree in elementary education at the University of Nebraska in February, 1956.



Ernest Nabity Family
Back l-r — Brian, Robert, Kevin, Lori, Lisa. **Front l-r** — Paul, Jim, Ernest, Peggy, Patrice, Mary Beth, standing.

Ernie and I met at the University. Ernie, the oldest of ten children, is a veteran of the Korean War. Besides farming our quarter section he is a security guard at the Ordnance Plant near Grand Island.

Our first child, Patrice, was born in February, 1957. Then came Jim in January, 1961; Kevin — August, 1962; Robert — January, 1964; Brian — November, 1965; Lori — November, 1967; Lisa — August, 1969; Beth — January 4, 1973; Paul — July, 1974; Mary Beth — September, 1976.

Beth was born with cerebral palsy and could not suck or swallow. After tests at Children's Hospital in Omaha, we brought her home to live what we knew would be a short life. She died January 13, 1974. She taught us many valuable lessons during her short life, the lessons only such a child can teach.

Our children are growing up. Patrice is now married to James Lippert. They live in Omaha where they both work.

Jim is attending the University of Nebraska majoring in mechanical engineering. He wants to work on a master's degree in nuclear engineering.

Kevin has entered the University where he may major in computer science, mechanical engineering or music. He was selected to be in the University Singers, one of three freshman to make this select group. He was also in the Nebraska Honor Choir in 1980.

All of the children are active in 4-H, having received many awards. Jim, Kevin, and Brian represented Nebraska at the National Junior Horticulture contest in St. Louis in 1979.

Music has been a part of their lives since music was an important part of my life due to the influence of my parents. Robert and Kevin have been members of Nominis Expers at the Central City High School. Patrice played clarinet in the band, Jim — saxaphone; Kevin — trumpet; Brian — saxaphone: Lori — clarinet; and Lisa is beginning on the saxophone.

Paul is in first grade this 1980-81 school year. Mary Beth goes to a sitter as I teach fourth grade in Palmer, Nebraska.

It is exciting to see the children grow and develop. What will Paul and Mary Beth grow up to be? We want them to be good productive citizens.

With the children going off to college, it seemed wise for me to renew my teaching certificate and help out financially doing something I love to do anyway and had never stopped doing all the years I was not in the classroom. *Submitted by Margaret (Peggy) Sand Nabity*

JOHN NABITY FAMILY

John Nabity and his wife, Frances Shumbara, came to the United States in 1884 directly to Omaha where John worked in a smelting shop for a number of years. He then bought a farm near Loma, Nebraska. The railroad went through the farm and an elevator was built, so he built a store. He farmed a few years and then managed the store. In 1905 he traded the store for a farm near Central City, Nebraska. The family moved to this farm. In 1910 he bought a farm one and one-half miles west and one and one-half miles north of Chapman. The family moved there in 1911 and a house and barn were built in 1912.

Mrs. Nabity's three sisters and their husbands came to the United States together. John's brother came across later. John sent money for his parents, Joseph and Maria Nabity, to come over later and they did come. They are all buried at the Brainard Cemetery.



John Nabity Family
Back l-r — Josephine, Joe, Anton, Anna. **Front l-r** — Mother, Fanny, Mary, Father and Lewis.

To John and Frances Nabity were born eight children: Mary — 1886; Anna — 1888; Josephine — 1890; Frances — 1892; Tony — 1894 and died in 1894; Anton — 1895; Joseph — 1897; Lewis — 1900.

Mary married Joseph Zmek. They had eight children. Anna married Anton Pelican. They had two daughters. Josephine married Harry Lawson. They had four children. Frances married Frank Janky. They had five children. Anton married Mamie Polansky. They had nine children. Joseph married Wilhelmina Trubl. They had eleven children. Lewis married Lillian Polansky. They had eight children. Lewis Nabity is the only surviving child from this family and he and his wife live at St. Paul, Nebraska in this year of 1980.

Francis Shumbara Nabity died on July 20, 1923. John died on January 16, 1935.

They have left a living heritage in their grandchildren and great grandchildren many of whom still are Merrick County residents. *Submitted by Ernest Nabity*

JOSEPH B. NABITY FAMILY

Joseph B. Nabity came to Merrick County with his parents in 1905 when he was eight years old from Bee, Nebraska near Brainard. He married Wilhelmina Trubl from St. Paul, Nebraska on June 14, 1922 at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church. They lived their entire married life on the farm one and one-half miles north and one and one-half miles west of Chapman.

To them were born eleven children: Ernest, George (who died as an infant), Stanley, Raymond, Alfred, Joseph, Virginia, Richard, Angela, Virgil, and Martha Mae.

Ernest is the only one still living in Merrick County. Stanley became a doctor and lives in Grand Island. He and his wife, Helen Matas, have six children: Jackie, Tom, Karen, Denise, Mary Ellen, and Kristie.

Raymond married Verla Razer. They had six children: Nancy, Terry, Steven, David, Greg, and Susan.

Alfred married Beata Dubas. They have sixteen children: Cindy, Debbie, Ellie, Fred, Gary, Helen (deceased), Irene, Janet, Kimberly, Lorita (deceased), Marie, Nick, Olinda, Peter, Quentin, and Rachael. They live in Grand Island.

Joseph married Barbara Clark. They live in Billings, Montana. They have six children: Douglas, Sara, Michael, Ann, Joe, and Jane.

Virginia became a nun and is now Sister Irene and lives in Denver, Colorado.

Richard married Annette Rott. They live in Grand Island and have six children: Chad, Nadine, Kurt, Collins, Kyle, and Jolene.

Angela teaches school in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She did not marry.

Virgil married Sandra Cimino. They live in Lincoln and have five children: Kathy, Diane, Mark, Kristen, and Scott.

Martha married Jim Dibbern. They live in York, Nebraska and have three children: Tim, Tammy, and Tom.

Joseph B. Nabity died on March 6, 1972 of cancer. Wilhelmina died on December 17, 1972 of a stroke. They are buried in the Central City Cemetery. Their children and grandchildren will remember them always as very special people.

They raised their family during the depression of the 1930's and the war years of the 1940's. They made do with what they had and placed their faith in God. They did not expect or want help from Uncle Sam. They were a proud and self sufficient people, much like the pioneers of our state. *Submitted by Ernest Nabity.*



Joe Nabity Family — 1968
Back l-r — Angela, Ray, Stan, Ernest, Alfred, Martha. **Front l-r** — Joe, Richard, Dad, Sister Irene, Mother, Virgil.

VERLA RASER NABITY

I, Verla Raser Nabity, am the daughter of Jesse and Gladys Raser. I have one sister, Donna Brown, of Denver, Colorado, and two brothers, Lyle Raser of Fort Collins, Colorado and Victor Raser of Grand Junction, Colorado.

I was born on the Raser farm near Chapman, Nebraska August 14, 1926. I graduated from Chapman High School in 1944. I was employed at the Commercial National Bank in Grand Island for two years, and at the Farmer's Union Grocery Store in Chapman for one year. I was married to Ray Nabity in January, 1947. We lived in Springfield, Missouri, until June of 1947. We moved back to Merrick County and farmed the Sam Magnuson farm, which my father-in-law, J.B. Nabity, had purchased. We had four children while living in Merrick County, Nancy, Terry, Steve, and Dave. Nancy and Terry attended the country school near our farm. We moved to Grand Island in January, 1956. Greg and Susan were born while we were living in Grand Island. We remained there until we were divorced.

I moved to Denver, Colorado, in April, 1977. I am employed at Data Documents, Incorporated as inventory control clerk. My children are:

Nancy, born November 7, 1947. She graduated from Senior High School in Grand Island in 1966. She was employed at Northwestern Bell Telephone Company for eleven years. She and Thomas Hehnke were married in Grand Island July 29, 1967. They have one daughter, Christine, born August 22, 1968. They moved to Ord, Nebraska in 1976, where they own a heating and cooling business. Terry, born Sept. 21, 1950. He graduated from Senior High School in Grand Island in 1969. He served in the U.S. Navy for four years during the Vietnam war. He now manages a real estate office in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Steve, born July 1, 1953. He graduated from Senior High School in 1971 and Kearney State College in 1977. He and Peggy Dineen were married August 26, 1977, in Kearney. They live in Kearney where they own a shop in a mall, and Steve is a foreman for a construction company.

Dave was born July 14, 1955. He graduated from Senior High School in 1973. He attended Kearney State College. He lives in Fort Collins, Colorado. He is public relations manager for a home builder company.

Greg was born August 4, 1958. He graduated from Senior High School in 1976. He attended Nebraska University in Lincoln one year and Kearney State College three years. He is presently a student at the Mortuary Science Institute in Dallas, Texas. He will graduate in August, 1981. He will return to Kearney, Nebraska, where he is associated with Nielson-Goberson Mortuary.

Sue moved to Denver with me, where she graduated for Westminister High School in 1979. She is employed as a frame attendant for Mountain Bell Telephone Company. She loves the Rocky Mountains, and water and ice skiing.



Verla Nabity — 1980

I am enjoying my life in Colorado and being able to spend time with my sister and brothers and their families. *Submitted by Verla Raser Nabity*

E. VERNON NELSON FAMILY

Elbert Vernon Nelson was born May 15, 1903, to John L. and Josephine Nelson. He attended school in District #12 eight years, and went to Nebraska Central College two years. As a young man, he assisted his father with the care of livestock and the operation of the farms. In 1935, when his parents retired, he took over the farming and livestock operations. In the fall of 1935, he married Marie Frauen, daughter of a pioneer Hall County family. To this union were born four children: Darrell and Dwayne Nelson, a daughter, Carol, and a son, Vernon who died in infancy.



E. Vernon Nelson Family
L-r — Ella, Mark, Darrell, Shannen, Kathy, Vernon. Inset, Dwayne.

In 1941, he purchased the McCullough ranch, and in 1962 he purchased 160 acres from the Ehlers estate.

Mrs. Marie Nelson died September 2, 1967. There are two grandchildren: Mark and Shannen, children of Darrell and Katherine Nelson.

Mr. Nelson lived on the home place until his retirement in 1968. His son, Dwayne, presently lives on the family farm.

On August 28, 1968, he married Ella Mayer Rohweder, daughter of a pioneer Howard County family. Upon retirement, they purchased a home in Central City.

In 1978 Mr. Nelson received the Nebraska Pioneer Farm Award, which is given to owners and descendants of farms which have remained in the same family for 100 years.

The Nelsons are active members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Central City, Nebraska. *Submitted by Mrs. E. Vernon Nelson*

GLORIA ERICKSON NELSON

My twin brother Ron and I were born June 26, 1941 at Omaha, Nebraska to Mr. and Mrs. Adrain Erickson of Archer. The family moved to a farm in the Fairview community northwest of Central City in 1945. I attended Burke School (District #18) through eighth grade. Grade school brings back fond memories — we were like one big happy family. The teachers had our utmost respect and I don't recall any severe discipline problems. We learned the basics and spent hours having spelldowns in preparation for the County Spelling Contest held in the courtroom of the courthouse at Central City. The big event of the year at our country school was the Christmas program. This was looked foreward to with anticipation for months in advance. Long dialogues were memorized, then came the fear as we waited backstage and wondered if we could possibly remember our lines! Not one of us could resist a peak out of the side curtain to see if all of our relatives had arrived. Not only did our family attend the District #18 program but also those at District #8 and District #33 in which our cousins took part. The last day of school each year was a family affair with a picnic, an afternoon ballgame and home-made ice-cream. In May 1955 my classmates, Eva Burke, Dorothy Stanislav, my brother and I participated in eight grade promotion exercises at the 4-H building at the Fairgrounds. Perhaps the most exciting thing about this event was not receiving our diplomas but that we girls wobbled across the stage to receive them wearing our first high-heeled shoes!

The old home place and the school are both gone now. A corn field and center pivot irrigation system cover any evidence that a farmstead and a schoolhouse once stood there, but the memories of my childhood years there will never be forgotten.

Although there were only brother and I in our family we had dozens of cousins and never lacked for companionship in those growing-up years. Never a Sunday passed that our house was not filled with visiting relatives. Our large family gatherings have gotten fewer now as the children branch out into families of their own, but we still try to all be together every Thanksgiving, Mother's Day and Christmas.

I attended high school in Central City, graduating with the Class of 1959. My sophmore year we moved from the farm to an acreage on the College Section. Following graduation I worked as a telephone operator for Northwestern Bell in Central City until they converted to the dial system in 1961.

On June 17, 1961 I was married to Clayton Nelson, the son of Nannie and Harry Nelson of Marquette. We were married at Mamre Evangelical Free Church near Marquette with Rev. Melvin Zichek of the Christian Church in Central City officiating. We are the parents of four children. Michelle, born April 6, 1962, graduated as Salutatorian with the class of 1980 at Marquette. Melissa, born May 1, 1967 is an eighth grader, Marni, born July 13, 1968 is in seventh grade and Ryan, born June 24, 1975 entered Kindergarten last fall.

We attend Mamre church where Clayton is presently choir director and Michelle is Sunday School and choir pianist. Clayton is also serving a four year term as treasurer on the Marquette school board.



Gloria and Clayton Nelson Family

We bought the farm on which we live in 1967 and in 1974 sold the farm ground, keeping forty acres on which we built a new home in 1975. We owned a large Grade A dairy herd until 1973 when we sold out the dairy herd and switched to stock cows. Clayton's dad passed away in 1978 and Clayton now farms his home place. Most recently we have became interested in raising Black Arabian horses.

We do not have much time to pursue hobbies but we do enjoy traveling, boating and water skiing and horseback riding. *Submitted by Gloria Nelson*

HERMAN & JESSIE NELSON

Mr. Herman Nelson was born in Merrick County at Central City, Nebraska, January 8, 1885. He was the son of John M. Nelson and Inga Lisa (Peterson) Nelson. He died November 10, 1950.

Herman married Jessie Emedia Nelson, June 30, 1905. She also was born in Merrick County, Central City, Nebraska. She was born February 10, 1887 and died September 9, 1971.

They had two children, Ivan Arthur Nelson, born July 17, 1908 and Elverna Inez (Nelson) Schutt, born January 6, 1911, and died July 13, 1944.



Herman and Jessie Nelson

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson started farming in 1905. He lived on the same farm all his married life, which was nearly sixty-six years. Although he never studied to be a carpenter, he learned from his own experience and built all the buildings on the farm. These are still here today. He was an ardent worker in the church (Grace Lutheran) at Central City, holding various offices, and also helped in the building of the chapel. He was also ready with his hammer when repairs were to be made, both at church and at home. Besides being a good farmer, he was one of the first in the community to practice irrigating his land, in 1935. Mr. Nelson was treasurer of the District #12 School for thirty-nine years.

They had five grandchildren: Gordon Nelson, Jeanette (Nelson) Williams, Marjorie (Schutt) Bengtson, Marlene (Schutt) McMullen and Inez Elverna Nelson, who died December 11, 1944, only having lived six months. She was born July 13, 1944. *Submitted by Ivan Nelson*

IVAN A. NELSON FAMILY

Mr. Ivan Arthur Nelson was born in Merrick County, at Central City, Nebraska, July 17, 1908. Ivan is the son of Herman and Jessie Emedia Nelson.

He married Elizabeth Alida Niemoth, May 1, 1935, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Grand Island. She was born on a farm in Hall County, Nebraska, Grand Island on March 7, 1913.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson started farming in 1935. They have lived on the same farm all their life except the four years that they lived in Central City, after his retiring from farming. He has kept active at his son's filling station in Central City and in helping Jim when he needed an extra hand.

Besides farming, his interest has been in cattle. At fairs (county and state) you would find him watching the 4-H shows instead of looking at the machinery displays. He has also helped at the 4-H cattle shows, buying some of the children's animals and being an active 4-H leader.

Elizabeth served as a cook at Merrick Manor for a few years. Earlier she raised chickens and sold hatching eggs to Jensen's Hatchery. They recall that during the Depression, crops were scarce and it was hard to keep the milk cows and animals fed. Then, after crops were irrigated, things were better again.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson had two children: Gordon Arthur Nelson, born August 23, 1937, and Jeanette Elizabeth (Nelson) Williams, born August 29, 1942. Gordon owns and operates Nelson Oil Company in Central City, Nebraska. Gordon and Sue's children are Lisa, Lynn, and Laura. Jeanette and her husband Jim Williams live on a farm northwest of Central City. Jeanette and Jim's children are Tim, Shari, and Steve. Tim is attending the University at Lincoln and the rest are still in the Central City Schools. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Nelson*



Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Nelson

JOHN L. NELSON FAMILY



Mr. and Mrs. John L. Nelson — 1939

John L. Nelson was born August 13, 1868, in Jankoping Lan, Sweden. At the age of ten, he moved with his parents to the Bababy Socken Smaland, Sweden. At the age of twenty-one, he decided to seek his fortune in America. He often told of the stormy voyage to America, and never had a desire to return to his native land, always remembering the terrible storm at sea he experienced on his way to the United States. On his arrival in this country, he came to Chapman, Nebraska, where he went to relatives, the Alfred Gustafsons. During his first years, he was employed on farms in the Central City area. He worked for $11.00 a month. Having arrived here with heavy winter clothing, he was extremely uncomfortable in Nebraska summer. As soon as he earned enough money, he purchased summer clothes.

In 1894, he began farming for himself, renting a farm from a man named Sparks, west of Central City. After five years, he purchased 160 acres of land now owned by his daughter, Mrs. Oscar Swanson. On January 14, 1901, he married Albertina Josephina Nelson, daughter of John M. Nelson, pioneer farmer. They were married at St. Paul, Nebraska.

After their marriage, they purchased 160 acres near Mrs. Nelson's parents, where their three children were born: Elna (Mrs. Emil Erickson), Elmeda, (Mrs. Oscar Swanson) and E. Vernon Nelson. They have seven grandchildren: Melvin and Gerald Swanson, Mrs. Vernon Pearson, Joyce and Elton Erickson, Dwayne and Darrell Nelson. The Nelsons were members of Grace Lutheran Church in Central City. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson lived on the same farm until his death February 20, 1941. Mrs. Nelson moved to Central City, following her husband's death. She died June 27, 1967. The Nelson farm is presently occupied by a grandson, Dwayne R. Nelson. Eighty acres of this farm have been in the family over 100 years, and is part of the original John M. Nelson homestead or tree claim.

In 1911, Mr. Nelson purchased 160 acres from the Miller estate near Archer, Nebraska, and in 1926 he purchased 320 acres near Hordville, Nebraska, where his daughter, Elna, and her family lived. Elna (Mrs. Emil Erickson) died January 9, 1973. In 1913, Mr. Nelson cut 13,000 feet of lumber from this land that he converted to buildings on his farm. He loved to work with lumber, and built thirty-four buildings on his farms.

John and Josephine were not without many hardships, but never went hungry. Through hard work, being very frugal, and faith in God they lived a quiet and God-fearing life together with their children. *Submitted by E. Vernon Nelson*

JOHN MAGNUS NELSON

John Magnus Nelson was born December 1, 1847, the eldest son of Nels Nelson and Martha Johnson, at Asa Smaland, Sweden. It was here that he spent his early boyhood. At the usual age, he was confirmed into the membershp of the Lutheran Church in Sweden.

In 1869 he sailed for America, where he settled in Andover, Henoy County, Illinois. Here, he became a member of the historically famous Church in Andover. On April 10, 1873, he married Inga Lisa Peterson, who was for him a loving helpmate. They were married nearly sixty years.

Three children were born to them. One daugher, Anna, died in 1884 at the age of eight. Mr. Nelson farmed in Henny County, Illinois, for six years after his marriage, and in 1879 he moved to Merrick County, Nebraska, where he settled on a farm west of Central City. They lived on the one farm place until his death, which was almost fifty years.

There were hardships in the early days after coming here. He told of the time when the garden was ready to harvest. Grasshoppers came in thick clouds and were eating everything. Sheets were brought out to use as a cover in an effort to save it, but they were devoured too.

That fall, John M. needed a stove pipe, but since crops were gone there wasn't money to purchase one. The store keeper refused to give him credit for the pipe — 15¢.

John M. Nelson was known as being honest and upright — never having indulged in activites outside



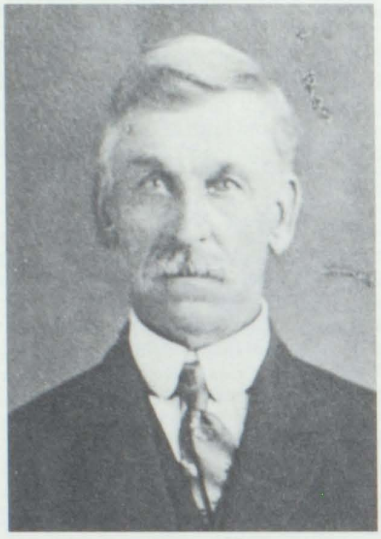
John Magnus and Inga Lisa Nelson

his sphere, which was farming.

In 1904, he joined Fridhem Lutheran Church in Hordville. He was active in building the chapel in Central City which was later organized into the Grace Lutheran Church.

Mr. John M. Nelson died December 20, 1932, and Inga Lisa Nelson, his wife, died May 28, 1940. His children were Mrs. John L. Nelson, (Josephine) born June 8, 1882 — died June 22, 1967. Her children were: Mrs. Emil Erickson (Elna), Mrs. Oscar Swanson (Elmeda), and Elbert Vernon Nelson. John's son, Herman Nelson was born January 8, 1885 and died November 10, 1950. His children were Ivan Arthur Nelson, born July 17, 1908, and Elverna Inez Schutt, born January 6, 1911, died on July 13, 1944. *Submitted by Ivan Nelson*

NELS PETER NELSON



Nels Peter Nelson

Nels Peter (Pete) Nelson was born March 25, 1850 — died March 12, 1925. He was the second son of Nels Nelson and Martha (Johnson) Nelson. He was born in Asa Smaland, Sweden. In 1869 he came to America, at the age of nineteen. He settled in Henoy County, Andover, Illinois and worked as a farmhand for six years. Only having one pair of shoes, he went looking for work barefooted in order to save them.

In 1879, he came to Nebraska with his brother, John M. They traveled here by immigrant box car (rail), his brother bringing his possessions this way to start anew in Nebraska.

He married Ida C. Johnson in 1882. They settled on a farm four miles southwest of Central City, where they lived all their life. Their two daughters were — Jessie Nelson, born Febuary 10, 1887, and Nellie M. Nelson, born April 11, 1891. Nellie lived to be only fifteen years old.

Nels Peter was a stockman and farmer. *Submitted by Ivan Nelson*

B.F. & ALMYRA NEWLON

B.F. Newlon, son of J.S. and Henrietta Coplin Newlon, was born at Grafton, West Virginia, and came to Merrick County at the age of six. They settled on a farm nine miles west of Central City, He confessed his Lord at the Prairie Creek Baptist Church, and was immersed in Prairie Creek. He attended Nebraska Central College and taught school for three years.

Almyra, daughter of Z.E. and Betsy Curtis Peck, was born near Valpariso, Indiana. She moved with her family to a farm four miles south of Palmer. She was baptized in the Loup River, becoming a member of the Methodist Church in Palmer.

B.F. married Almyra Peck, and they farmed nine years in the Prairie Creek and Fairview vicinity. They then moved to a farm southwest of Palmer, later moving to Palmer.

He was a member of the 1933 legislature.

They had four children: Floyd Hugh, husband of Theda McCann; Ethel Jane; Charles Leroy, husband of Onilee Wymer; and Almyra Maude, wife of Alfred Smith, the Friend's Minister. They had five grandchildren: Irene and Vivian Newlon of Palmer; Norval Smith of Oskaloosa, Iowa; Gordon Smith of Wichita, Kansas; and Marta Newlon, wife of Roger Chilton of Dixon, New Mexico.



B. F. and Almyra Newlon

The Newlons are buried in Palmer Cemetery. *Submitted by Ethel Newlon*

CHARLES NEWLON FAMILY

EAST MEETS WEST!
WEST MEETS EAST!
HOW THE "TWAIN MET"!

Charles Leroy Newlon (better known as Roy) was born in Merrick County two miles southwest of Palmer. His father, Benjamin Franklin Newlon, came with his parents at the age of six from West Virginia. His mother, Almyra Peck Newlon, was fourteen years old when her parents ventured to Merrick County from Indiana. Benjamin taught school and later married his pupil, Almyra Peck. He became a farmer and a stockman, residing on several farms before settling southwest of Palmer.

I, Onilee Wymer Newlon, am also a native of Merrick County. My father, Franklin Enos Wymer, was born in Illinois and was a carpenter. Later he became a farmer, he could not accept the idea of unions. My mother, Mary Evelyn Adams Wymer, Merrick County native, journeyed to Illinois to visit a married sister and, at a family reunion, met the young man who fell in love with her, and she became his wife. After a dozen or so years, he came to Nebraska seeking a farm, and purchased one just four miles west of his wife's birthplace and approximately eight miles northeast of Palmer. It was here that I was born.

East meets West, now West meets East! Roy and I became acquainted at church. My first recollection of him was with his head swathed in bandages and every one questioning the reason. He claims to recall me as the little girl with long curls giving readings at different functions. Nebraska winter weather didn't always cooperate with dating. Several times, rather than break a date, Roy would ride the ten miles on horseback. The wedding day arrived and roads were impassable, so our honeymoon was a ten mile ride on horseback.



Roy and Onilee Newlon

Our promise to stay by each other through good years and lean years, sickness and good health, rich or poor, has certainly been kept. A little girl, Marta Ione, graced our home nearly ten years later. She is now Mrs. Roger Chilton, and has three small children — Maria, Lila, and Dan. Roy preferred caring for stock over farming, but gave this up due to my health. It was at this time we became wheat and alfalfa farmers in the summer time and were gypsies in the winter months. We not only broadened our education, but our scope of friends. Roy's avocation was helping churches wherever we went as a carpenter, painter, teacher, or what have you. My hobby is magic. We entertained in hospitals, children's homes, sanitariums, schools, parties, and the like. I became Marta's teacher through the eighth grade. She gained firsthand knowledge of the south and southwest. A travel trailer became our way of life.

Knowing Roy wouldn't be happy to stay permanently in any place but Merrick County we decided to build a home in the northeast corner of Palmer, where we now reside, in the middle of our farming operation. *Submitted by Onilee Wymer Newlon (also known as Princess Jackie, The Magician).*

LYLE & VIOLA NEWLON

Jefferson D. Van Pelt brought his family to Nebraska from Ohio in 1879. He had made previous trips and had a sod house ready for them on a homestead, three miles north and one mile west of the present day site of Archer. They reared a family of six children, all of which are now deceased.

My father, Milo, was the second eldest, being nine years of age when they arrived in Nebraska. Milo married Zora Badgley Snyder, a widow with two children in 1904. They made their home on the original homestead for the next fifty-five years. This farm is now owned by my brother, Charles.

I, Viola, was the eldest of my father's children. My sisters are Erma Kucera of Hordville, Eugenia Chernoff of California and Charles of Hordville. We all attended District #43 school, as my father had. His mother was one of the early teachers there.

Lyle Newlon and I were married in 1927. Lyle's father, Clarence Newlon came to Nebraska in 1884 from West Virginia. His mother, Sabina Campbell was born in Indiana and came to Merrick County as a small child. Lyle has one sister, Florence Newlon Gammon, of Colorado. Lyle owned a grocery store in Palmer during the late 30's. We moved to Grand Island during World War II so that Lyle could do defense work. We later moved to Denison, Iowa where he worked as an accountant. I taught school in both Iowa and Nebraska. We lived in Iowa for twenty years. After we retired, we returned home to Merrick County.

We have two daughters. Charlotte Beyer lives in Neligh. Her husband, Joe, operates a funeral home there. Charlotte, a registered nurse, works in the Neligh hospital. They have four children. Vanessa Schueths and her husband, Dave, have three children, April, Brian and Jonathan. Douglas Beyer and his wife, Patrice have two children, Christopher and Angela. Jeff is in the Navy and Andrew is in school.

Kay Holst and her husband Donald live in Bellevue. Kay is a teacher in the Bellevue school system. Don is a loan officer at Packers National Bank in Omaha. They have two sons. Mark is attending his second year of college. Matthew is a sophomore at Bellevue West High School. *Submitted by Mrs. Lyle Newlon*

NICHOLAS
FIVE GENERATIONS

From what I have read my great grandfather appeared to have been a representative old timer of this area. He spent many years of his life in the building of a farm and a good home in Merrick County.

Alexander, the son of Issac and Sara Nicholas, was born in Strongsville, Ohio on January 25, 1839. When he was eight years of age he moved with his

parents to Lafayette County in Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood. He received his education there and later engaged in farming. Alexander was third in a family of seven children. His mother died in August of 1850 and his father ten years later.

On July 2, 1859, great grandfather was united in marriage to Miss Salena Burge of Wisconsin. To them were born twelve children: Isaac, William, Sarah, Jemima, Alfred, Mary, Samantha, Martha, Charles, Clara, Myra, and my grandfather Joseph.

In the spring of 1872, Alexander with his wife and then seven children came to Howard County, Nebraska. They pre-empted eighty acres of land one and a half miles east of St. Paul. Here they lived in a dugout until the fall of 1873, when they came to Merrick County and homesteaded eighty acres in Section eight, Township fourteen, Range eight, which remained the home place for several years.

My great grandparents sold this piece of land after it was proved upon and took a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Section eighteen, Township fourteen, Range eight. This land is still in the family, and is farmed by my brother.

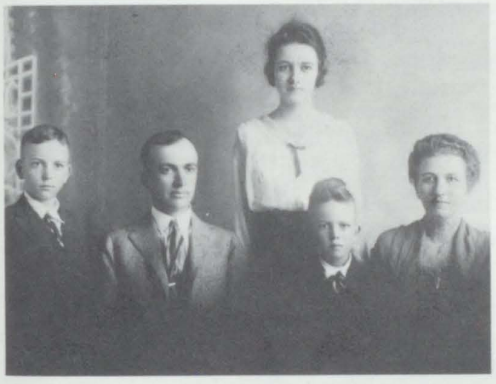
My great grandparents were among the early settlers of this part of Nebraska. They passed through all the trying experiences incidental to early Nebraska days. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church since before they came west.

My great grandparents both died in the year 1922. Alexander on April 12 and Salena on May 22.

JOSEPH EDWARD NICHOLAS

My grandfather, Joseph, was the youngest of the twelve children of Alexander and Salena. He was born on September 3, 1881 in Merrick County. Joseph received his eduation and grew to manhood in Palmer. When his father retired from farming, Joseph took over the family farm, just as his son and grandsons have.

Miss Ella McClellan, September 8, 1883, whose family had been in the Plains States as trappers and traders for many years, married Joseph on December 5, 1901.



Joseph and Ella Nicholas and family

Three children were born to my grandparents: Beatrice, who married Floyd Kuykendall in 1929 and lived in Colorado where she died in 1938. Quintin, born in 1908, served in the Sea Bees from 1942 to 1946. He married Glenna Camak, of Maine, in 1956. They have one son Steven, who lives in California. Aunt Glenn passed away in December of 1980. Victor, the youngest, is my father and his story will follow.

In 1937 Joseph and Ella retired from farming, but grandfather continued his work with insurance, which he had done for many years. They remained on the home place where he died in 1951. My grandmother then moved to Palmer into a house built by my father and uncle, where she lived until she died in 1961.

VICTOR NICHOLAS

The third generation of my story begins with my father, born on May 11, 1912 to Joseph and Ella Nicholas. He spent his early years in Merrick County where he attended school at Rural District #41 and graduated from Palmer High School in 1929. While in high school, he was on the basketball team that went to the state championship in 1928. The next team to achieve this honor, was in 1972, and my brother Jim was on that team. After high school graduation my father attended the old Baptist College in Grand Island for a year.



Victor and Jocelyn Nicholas

Dad married Gladys Wadsworth, daughter of Elmer and Ella Wadsworth, in 1932. They lived in Palmer for a time, and also in Lincoln for a year while Dad attended the University. In 1937 they moved to Fruitland, Idaho, where they farmed. And then in 1941 they moved to Portland, Oregon where my father worked in the ship yards.

At the age of thirty-one, and World War II in progress, Dad enlisted in the Marine Corps. While in the Marines, he served in the Phillipines and in China. After the war, he left the service with the rank of sergeant.

He returned to Portland, where on April 25, 1947, he had a son, but tragedy struck and his wife died in childbirth. The boy, Gregory, survived and now lives in California.

Dad, along with my brother Greg, returned to the family home in Palmer. Several years later, on March 16, 1949, he married my mother, Jocelyn Jean Hiett, daughter of Clinton and the late Mary Wadsworth Hiett. Mom had grown up in the Gage Valley area of Howard County and later had moved to Palmer with her father and brother Jerry.

My folks lived the first several years of their married life on a farm two miles east of the home place. In 1952 they moved to the family farm where they still live. The old farm house was replaced in 1966 with a new house.

Four of us were born to this union: Robert Lee, May 22, 1950, myself, Vicki Lynn, September 11, 1951, James Edward, February 8, 1964, and Mary Bea, August 18, 1955.

Dad retired from active farming in 1974, but has remained an important part of the family business. My mother, with her family raised, has gone to work. She is employed as bookkeeper for Dinsdale Brothers Elevator in Palmer.

Much of my parent's spare time is spent with their children and four grandchildren. All of us, except Greg, live close by so family get-togethers are frequent happenings.

NICHOLAS KIDS

The "Nicholas Kids" as we've been called more than once, are the fourth generation in my story. Our children make up the fifth generation to call Merrick County their home.

Greg, Bob, and I started school at District #41, but the school was consolidated with Palmer in 1958. All of us graduated from Palmer High School: Greg 1965, Bob 1968, Vicki 1969, Jim 1972, and Mary 1973.

After graduation Greg enlisted in the Navy for four years, serving two and a half years in Viet Nam. He now lives in California where he works for the phone company. Bob attended Hastings College and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. I spent one year at Peru State College and then finished my studies at the University, where I received a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education in 1972. Jim also attended the University for several years. Mary attended Hastings College for a year and then went to work for Countryman and Associates in Grand Island. She is still employed there, but has continued with her college education at Hastings.

We were all baptized and confirmed at the United Methodist Church in Palmer. Since marrying, I have becone a member of the Zion Lutheran Church in Worms.

Three of us are married. Ron Simonson and I were married on December 29, 1972. We now live south of Worms on the O.R. Simonson farm. On December 1, 1978, we had a son whom we named Nicholas Dean. I taught school for five years at District #19 in Howard County and am now teaching at Palmer.

Jim was the next to get married. He married my sister-in-law Rochelle Simonson on February 1, 1975. They live just north of the folks and have one daughter, Lindsay Rochelle, born on February 16, 1979. Jim is now running the family farm.

Margaret Wegner became Bob's wife on December 11, 1976. They live west of Archer where Bob farms with is father-law Dale. They have two daughters; Andrea Lynn, June 3, 1978 and Kristin Marie, March 4, 1980. Margaret runs an upholstery shop in Palmer. *Submitted by Vicki Nicholas Simonson*

ALEXANDER S. NICHOLAS

Alexander Stephen Nicholas was born January 25, 1839, in southern England. He came to Mineral Point, Wisconsin, with his parents in 1855. In 1858



Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Stephen Nicholas

he sent to Cornwall, England, for his sweetheart, Salena Birge, (born August 16, 1838). A.S. and Salena were married immediately upon her arrival. To this union were born one dozen children, most of whom were born and raised in the Palmer area. Their progeny were: Issac J., 1860-1926, William A., 1861-1940, Sarah E. (Mrs. Ira Griffen), 1863-, Gemina S. (Mrs. George Stratton) 1864-1908, Alfred S., 1867-1944, Mary J. (Mrs. James Peck), 1869-1936, Samantha E. (Mrs. Wesley Deveny), 1871-1909, Mira E., 1873-1885, Clara A., 1875-1875, Martha A. (Mrs. Bert Strong), 1876-1947, Charles E. , 1878-1950, Joseph E., 1881-1951.

During the time A.S. lived in Wisconsin with his parents, he made at least two trips from there to California as outrider for wagon trains. An outrider didn't camp with the train, but kept some three to four miles distant and slept on the ground with his horse's reins fastened to him so the horse would awaken him if trouble arose. He chose to travel with no gun so Indians could see that he meant no harm.

Remembering the open prairies in central Nebraska from his wagon train treks, A.S. brought his family in 1872 to Nebraska, settling first in Howard County, near Saint Paul, south of the Loup River. Then in the fall of 1873, he entered his homestead application in Merrick County, the southeast corner of Section 18, Township 14 North, Range 8 West, where he built a sod house. This area came to be known as Gage Valley.

Alexander Nicholas died April 12, 1922. Salena died less than six weeks later, May 22, 1922. Both are buried at Palmer. *Submitted by Merlyn Morris*

ARTHUR CECIL NICHOLAS

Arthur Cecil Nicholas was born in Palmer, March 18, 1882, the oldest child of Isaac J. Nicholas and Cora Elnora Coolidge. He spent his entire life in Merrick County. His wife, Francina Estella Campbell, was the tenth of eleven children, born July 23, 1882, in Palmer to William Francis Campbell and Florissa Ann Curtis.

Artie and Francina were married September 16, 1903, in Palmer. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in their home in Central City, September of 1953.

Two daughters were born in Palmer to this union: Ruby Elnora in 1906, Iola Elaine in 1910.

Artie and Francina began married life as farmers near Palmer. They moved to Central City in 1914, where Artie served as cashier in the Conservative State Bank and the Central City National. In 1935, he was elected Merrick County Treasurer, which office he held until his death February 5, 1954.

Artie was an active member of Lone Tree Lodge No. 36 A.F. and A.M. of Central City. He and Francina were lifelong members of the Christian Church.

After Artie's death, Francina remained in the family home on Seventeenth Avenue for several years. When Merrick Manor opened, she decided to take advantage of its hospitality and spent her last years there. Francina died February 1, 1976.

Francina all her life was a dedicated records-keeper and maintained current and accurate records of the Campbell and Nicholas families, as well as their many tangents. It is due to her diligent efforts that many of today's families can trace their origins.



Arthur C. Nicholas Family

Elnora Nicholas spent most of her lifetime in Merrick County. She was educated in rural schools near Palmer, then in Central City. She attended Nebraska Central College and was graduated from Bethany College near Lincoln.

Elnora married her high school sweetheart, Arthur Harold Bass, in Central City in 1927. Art and Elnora had four children: Orval, Merlyn, Ralph and Joanne. The Basses resided in Grand Island, where Art was the District Shorthand Reporter, until World War II, at which time the Bass family, sans Arthur, moved to Merrick County.

Elnora began teaching in Archer in 1944 where she remained until 1955 when she moved to California. In 1968 Elnora married widower Loyd V. Clark. At the time of her death in 1976 she was residing in San Rafael.

Orval lives in Fulton, Missouri; works with the Soil Conservation office. Merlyn (Mrs. Frank Morris) of Locust Grove, Oklahoma, is a court reporter typist. Ralph resides in Sonoma, California; commutes daily to San Francisco to his employment with Bechtel. Joanne Steuben lives in Columbia, Missouri, employed by Montgomery Ward.

Elaine Nicholas married Harold Leslie Temple in Bemidji, Minnesota, in 1935. Harold became a Medical Doctor. The Temples spent their early married life in New York City. Recently they retired to Sarasota, Florida, wintertimes; Block Island, Rhode Island, summertimes.

Elaine and Harold had three children, two of whom are still living in New York City: William and Barbara. Their second son, Robert, died in a car accident in 1967. *Submitted by Merlyn Morris*

GLEN NICHOLAS FAMILY

Glen O. Nicholas was born to Isaac J. and Cora (Coolidge) Nicholas in a sod house at NW1/4, 17-14-8, on September 20, 1887 (the year Palmer became a town and the railroad passed that point). On that day Ike and some helpers laid a limestone rock foundation for a frame house. This was Glen's home until 1924 when it was replaced by the present house.

He attended District #41 for his eighth grade education and Palmer's First Church of Christ for his spiritual education.

He married Carrie E. Arnold, daughter of Will and Winifred (Prince) Arnold, on December 30, 1908. They continued to live on the same farm until 1936 when they moved into Palmer. He worked part-time on the farm where he had lived so many years and traveled some. On August 14, 1955, he worked in the church-yard, and that night was stricken by a cerebral hemorrhage and went to his reward the next day.

After his death, Carrie continued to care for her one-half block yard and orchard. For a number of years she took her mother into her home and cared for her. For hobbies, she enjoyed playing the piano and arranging flowers for church and other occasions. She died August 12, 1971, (eighty-five years of age) after a full life of loving service.

To this couple were born Orville J., February 15, 1911, and Thelma Irene, June 5, 1913. Thelma studied music, graduated from Palmer High School in 1929 and Lincoln General Hospital School of Nursing in 1936. She continued nursing there for a year or so and did some private nursing. She then worked in a Long Beach, California hospital until December 15, 1940 when she enlisted for one year as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. When the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941, she was automatically in until the end of World War II. During her more than twenty years of continuous service, she served at: Fort McArthur, 1941-July, 1942; Hamilton Field and Hammer Field in California, 1942-1944; Tonipah, Nevada, 1944-1945; Portland, Oregon, 1945-September, 1948; Fort Crook, Nebraska, 1948-December, 1949; Goose Bay, Labrador, 1949-December, 1950; Fitzsimmons Hospital, Colorado, 1951-February, 1952; Lowery Air Force Base (from where she made two trips to Japan for wounded), 1952-1953; Chateroux, France, 1953-1955; Fairchild, Washington, 1955-1958; Zaragoza, Spain, 1958-August, 1960; and Hampton, Virginia, 1960-March, 1961. She received her honorable discharge February 28, 1961, having reached the rank of Major. She had accumulated thousands of slide pictures in her travels. Following her discharge, she worked at Offutt Air Base most of the time until internal cancer caused her death on February 12, 1970. *Submitted by Orville J. Nichols*



Glenn and Carrie Nicholas and children

GUY ALFRED NICHOLAS

Guy Alfred Nicholas was born November 9, 1885, the son of Isaac J. and Cora Nicholas. He was born near Palmer, in fact right thru the section three miles south of town.

On November 14, 1906, he was married to Elsie Dean Farlee, who was also from the Palmer area, in fact living at the time down near what was then District #31 school, with her sister Cora Campbell, as her mother had died many years before.

After marrige, they moved to a farm right around the corner from where Dad was born. In fact, he lived on that same section all of his life. He always said he was his own boss only five days, as he was married that soon after his twenty-first birthday.

Two daughters were born to this union. Zella Gertrude in 1908 and Hazel Evelyn in 1913. I guess I was supposed to be called Hazel, but my grandmother had a neighbor that she didn't particularly care for by that name, so I was always called Evelyn.

The folks were life-long members of the Church of Christ in Palmer. We girls have always kept the affiliation, but in different places.

Dad was always rather interested in politics, but always on the TWP level, holding several offices. Guess he would have been called a staunch Democrat. He was precinct assessor for many years, as well as what was then called road boss.

Zella married Floyd DeBord in 1927. They lived in Merrick County for a few years, but then went farther west in the state. Evelyn married Norris Haag, also from the Palmer area, but just over the line into Howard County. We did move away for a few years, but now are back on the farm where Norris started from.

My folks didn't live to be old by today's standards, Mother until 1949 and Dad, 1951, but they never seemed old, even to me as a child, which is rather different than most young people. They loved to travel, and we were among the few to do so. My grandparents lived in Greeley, Colorado, as well as an uncle. Another uncle lived on a homestead thirty-eight miles from Douglas, Wyoming. We would go out every few years. That was quite a trip at that time.

One really memorable trip was to Yellowstone, Colorado Springs, Denver, and Salt Lake City, as well as visiting relatives along the way. We had five carloads with eighteen people, all related to rela-

tions. We had a ball, as each family put so much in the pot with which to buy food and it was all cooked together. Of course, this was defintely camping, as we all stayed in tents. We managed to stay somewhat close together driving by tying red flags on both the front and back of each car. I was the youngest in the group, so I had no responsibilities except now and then to do dishes. This was in 1927. *Submitted by Evelyn Haag*

ISAAC J. NICHOLAS

Isaac J. "Ike" Nicholas was born June 26, 1860, at Mineral Point, Wisconsin, the oldest of twelve children to Alexander Stephen Nicholas and Salena Birge Nicholas. When Ike was twelve years old, the family moved to Nebraska where they lived for a brief time in Howard County, and finally settled in Merrick County. Ike's parents homesteaded near Palmer in Section 18, Township 14 North, Range 8, West, in what is commonly known as Gage Valley.

An anecodte from the family archives regarding Ike's youth reads as follows: "While the Nicholas family still lived in Howard County, their oldest son, Isaac, age about twelve years, and a neighbor boy, being saturated with the spirit of pioneer adventure, decided they wanted to go to South America. So without telling their folks, they started out afoot.

Later in the day the parents learned of the boys' departure. Mr. A.S. Nicholas started after them on horseback. Late that night he caught up with the boys at the "Gus" Coolidge home northwest of Lone Tree. They all stayed at the Coolidge home until early the next morning, when Mr. Nicholas and the boys started the long journey back home. One of the boys was without shoes, so he was allowed to ride back of Mr. Nicholas' saddle, while the boy with shoes trudged along beside the horse.

There was a happy sequence to this adventure. In the "Gus" Coolidge home where the boys had been guests there was a nice little daughter named Cora. She later became Mrs. Isaac Nicholas."

In the picture of the Augustus J. Coolidge family, Cora Elnora is the daughter standing farthest left.

Isaac J. Nicholas married Cora Elnora Coolidge, daughter of Augustus J. Coolidge and Mary E. Parsons, on December 23, 1880, in Palmer. Cora Elnora was born October 13, 1862; died December 20, 1891.

Ike and Cora had five children, most of whose family histories appear elsewhere in this book: Arthur Cecil Nicholas, 1882-1954, Mary Salena (Mrs. Orlando Campbell), 1883-1962, Guy Alfred, 1885-1951, Glen Ora, 1887-1955, John Lee, 1889-1903.

Nine months after the death of Cora, Ike married again. The second Mrs. Nicholas had been previously married and widowed, with one daughter. This brave woman was Amanda Isabella Lambert, born February 15, 1863; married James F. Geherty, who died in 1889. "Belle" as she was popularly called had a daughter, Mary Amanda "Mamie" Geherty (later Mrs. William M. Weber) born July 16, 1881, died December 24, 1939.

Ike and Cora built a sod house on the southwest quarter of Section 17, Township 14 North, Range 8 West. They laid a limestone foundation in it the day their fourth child, Glen, was born. Ike ran one of the few large horse-power threshing machines for many years, starting with shock threshing continuously until the season ended, usually into November, December, or occasionally January. *Submitted by Merlyn Morris*

LEE NICHOLAS FAMILY

Lee E. Nicholas was born in 1883, oldest of eight children of William and Emma Parsons Nicholas. He was a third generation resident of Palmer. His grandfather was an outrider on a wagon train, who settled on a claim in this territory.

Lee grew up on a farm, and attended the Palmer School. He was graduated from the Grand Island Business College, then took an office job with a railroad company. This took him to the then "wild west." He always remembered Cavalry parades, and a stagecoach still operating.

He returned to Palmer, and in 1908 married Olive Webster, a school teacher. They farmed for a few years, then built a home in Palmer and operated a hardware and furniture store.

Lee did what many furniture store owners did at that time. He studied and passed the examination for a mortician's license, which he kept active the rest of his life. He kept the store and mortuary until his retirement in 1955. His interest in the Palmer community was lifelong. He knew the history of every farm for miles around.

Lee and Olive were devoted members of the Methodist Church. Lee was also a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Shriners, was on the Rose Hill Cemetery board, secretary of the Palmer School board, served on the Village Board, belonged to the Commercial Club, and was active in many community betterment projects. He was voted Mr. Solid Citizen of the Fall Festival in 1966.

Lee and Olive had two children — Aileen (Mrs. Don) Morris, Omaha, with two children and seven grandchildren — Norman, married to Betty Grace of Central City, with one child and two grandsons. Norman and Betty live in Oroville, California.

Olive died in June, 1959. Lee died in September of 1968. *Submitted by Mrs. Aileen (Don) Morris*

ORVILLE NICHOLAS FAMILY

Orville J. was born February 15, 1911 to Glen and Carrie (Arnold) Nicholas at the farm home on Section 17-14-8. He finished Palmer High School in 1928 and farmed with Glen, working into part ownership of livestock and machinery.



Orville Nicholas Family

Prema Maddox was born January 10, 1904 to Harvey and Kate (Newlon) Maddox in Merrick County. She attended grade school in Howard County, PHS (1923), and Kearney State and taught school. In 1933-35 salary was $45 per month, board and room was $12, but she saved money.

Prema came down with mumps mid-May, 1935, then Orville followed suit June 1. This postponed their wedding one week to June 12 at the Harvey Maddox home.

Their family was the third to live on that Nicholas farm and attend District #41 School.

Children:

Phyllis Irene, June 26, 1936 to June 28, 1936, buried at Rose Hill Cemetery.

Nola Jane, March 13, 1938, finished Palmer High School in 1955, Nebraska Christian College in 1958, and married Jerry Deffenbaugh (a Christian minister) May 28, 1958. Children: Rodney Dean, January 27, 1960; Reggie Dale, April 20, 1961 to October 10, 1961; Tamera Jean, July 6, 1962; Terri Ann, September 30, 1964; and Ritchie, May 19, 1968.

Nelva Joan, May 14, 1940, finished PHS in 1958, attended NCC one year, and married Ronald McNeff August 19, 1959. They live on the Nicholas farm. Children: Cynthia Rae, July 24, 1960; Edward Lynn, March 13, 1962; Susan Marie, October 14, 1963; Kenneth Irvine, October 24, 1965.

Arnold Eugene, December 29, 1942, (first to be born at a hospital), finished PHS in 1961, Wayne State in 1964, and married Nancy Swanson October 12, 1963. He taught school in Iowa, then bought and developed a dairy farm near Lamar, Missouri. Children: Roger Gene Swanson Nicholas, November 18, 1960; Debra Jean, September 1, 1964; Michael Scott, April 21, 1971.

Due to depression and drouth, Orville worked in Gering irrigation harvests three falls ('36-'38), then in 1939 helped put REA through Merrick County. In 1940 the partnership developed irrigation at home.

Because of busy summer schedules, we often traveled as a family during Christmas vacation, using money which others would use for liquor and tobacco.

We received the Merrick County Soil Conservation Award in 1958 and in 1978 the Citizen of the Year award in Palmer. Both surprised us.

Due to health problems we quit farming in 1960 and McNeffs' moved on the place.

Orville studied electricity and we moved to Columbus, Indiana in 1961. He finished DeVry electronics courses in November at Chicago, continued working at Columbus until 1964 when he bought the Golden Rule Electric and moved back to Palmer.

Prema had a heart valve replaced February 1, 1975, and progressed nicely until February 13, when she succumbed to adrenal gland failure.

On February 27, 1977, following Sunday morning church service, Orville and Emma (Clark) Hann walked to the front of Palmer's First Church of Christ and were united in marriage with the congregation as guests and witnesses.

I still operate the Golden Rule Electric and we



L-r — Arthur, Lena, Guy, Mamie, Glen. **Seated** — Isaac, John, Belle. I. J. Nicholas Family about 1900

travel quite a lot. We have tried to put first things first and to us Christ and His Church are first. *Submitted by Orville J. Nicholas*

ANNA NIEDFELT

Anna Dora Niedfelt was born May 4, 1905, at Grand Island to Diedrick J. and Ella Scherzberg Niedfelt. She lived for many years on the family farm but now resides in Grand Island. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

AUGUST NIEDFELT

August Wilhelm Carl Niedfelt was born on February 2, 1901, at Grand Island to Diedrick J. and Ella Scherzberg Niedfelt. He married Ella Eggers on April 13, 1925. She was the daughter of John and Ninna Rathman Eggers, and was born May 1, 1904, at Red Cloud.

August and Ella Niedfelt lived on the Niedfelt farm for several years before moving to their present farm. They are the parents of four children: Eloise Mae is married to Charles Weber; Arthur is married to Mary Lee Peters; Robert married Irene Schuett; and Elizabeth is married to August Hagemeister.

August passed away March 31, 1981, and is buried in the Grand Island City Cemetery. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

CARL NIEDFELT FAMILY

Carl Dietrich (Dick) Niedfelt was born June 24, 1936, at Grand Island to Diedrick Edward and Dorothy Hohmann Niedfelt. He attended District #2 School and Chapman High School. Since that time he has been farming near Chapman.



Carl Dietrich and Karen Niemoth Niedfelt

Carl (Dick) Niedfelt married Karen Niemoth on November 4, 1962, in Grand Island. She is the daughter of Victor and Clara Augustin Niemoth, and was born September 18, 1941, in Merrick County. They have since lived on the Niedfelt farm near Chapman. Karen attended Pleasant Ridge District #32 School and graduated from the Grand Island Senior High School in 1959. She has been employed by the Overland National Bank in Grand Island since that time. Her present position with the bank is Assistant Vice President/Credit Analyst and Residential Mortgage Loan Officer, with commercial and agricultural lending responsibilities.

Carl (Dick) and Karen Niedfelt are the parents of two children: Shelley, born November 13, 1963, and a junior at Central City High School; and Dietrich Edward (Rick), born November 8, 1966, named after his grandfather, and a fourth generation Dietrich. He is an eighth grader at Central City Junior High School. Shelley and Rick attended District #2 School for grades Kindergarten through sixth, prior to attending the Central City Schools. The family are members of the Messiah Lutheran Church in Grand Island. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

DIEDRICK NIEDFELT FAMILY



Diedrick E. and Dorothy Hohmann Niedfelt

Diedrick (Dick) Edward Niedfelt was born to Diedrick J. and Ella Scherzberg Niedfelt on December 12, 1904, on the family farm in Merrick County. He married Dorothy Hohmann on February 16, 1927, at Kearney. She was the daughter of Henry Hohmann and Anna Schmale Hohmann, and was born August 11, 1907 at Grand Island.

Diedrick and Dorothy Niedfelt lived on his father's island farm northwest of Doniphan, Nebraska, until 1943 when they moved to the farm six miles southwest of Chapman, which they had purchased five years earlier. They were the parents of two children: Audrey and Carl Dietrich (Dick).

Diedrick Edward Niedfelt passed away on November 30, 1961, at Grand Island. He had lived on the farm until his death. Dorothy Niedfelt Day lives in Grand Island. Diedrick is buried in the Grand Island City Cemetery. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

OSCAR NIEDFELT

Oscar Harrie Niedfelt was born on December 14, 1910, at Grand Island to Diedrick J. and Ella Scherzberg Niedfelt. He married Bernice Cosgriff, daughter of Byron and Matilda Wortman Cosgriff, on November 28, 1934. She was born February 20, 1909.

Oscar and Bernice Niedfelt farmed northeast of Doniphan. They had one son, Gerald, who was married to Elaine Keefer. Gerald passed away December 9, 1974.

Oscar Niedfelt passed away March 12, 1949, and is buried in the Grand Island City Cemetery. Bernice continues to live on the farm near Doniphan. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

DIEDRICK J. NIEDFELT FAMILY

Diedrick J. Niedfelt was born February 28, 1873, in Nienburg-Hanover, Germany, to Wilhelm Johann Niedfelt and Sophie Wittmershaus Niedfelt. In the fall of that same year, Wilhelm Niedfelt and his family immigrated to the United States, settling at the western edge of Merrick County.

Diedrick J. Niedfelt married Ella Scherzberg on November 1, 1895, at Grand Island. She was born September 3, 1874, to Charles Scherzberg and Elizabeth Zlomke Haegner Scherzberg. They lived on the Niedfelt family farm.

Diedrick and Ella Niedfelt were the parents of thirteen children: Frieda, Louise, Olga, Emma, August, Lena, Carl (who died at the age of four), Diedrick, Anna, Alvina, Oscar, Alma, and Walter.

Ella Scherzberg Niedfelt passed away August 22, 1924, and Diedrick J. Niedfelt passed away December 6, 1937. They had lived on the Niedfelt farm until their deaths. They are buried in the Grand Island City Cemetery. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*



Diedrick J. Niedfelt family — **Front l-r** — Walter, Diedrick J., Ella and Alma. **Back l-r** — Lena, Emma, Olga, Diedrick E., August, Louise, and Frieda.

WALTER NIEDFELT, SR.

Walter Johann Alvin Niedfelt, Sr. was born on September 27, 1915, at Grand Island to Diedrick J. and Ella Scherzberg Niedfelt. He married Elnora Pieper, daughter of Hugo and Frieda Heesch Pieper, on August 31, 1938. She was born April 10, 1919, at Grand Island.

Walter and Elnora Niedfelt have lived on the Niedfelt family farm since their marriage. They are the parents of two sons, Walter, Jr., married to Donna Pedersen, and Donald, who is married to Nancy Schultz. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

WILHELM NIEDFELT FAMILY



Wilhelm Niedfelt family — Sophia and Wilhelm in front; Sophia, William and Diedrich.

Wilhelm Johann Niedfelt, a son of Johann Frederick Niedfelt, was born on April 20, 1831, in Loccum, Germany. He and his family sailed to America in the Fall of 1873 from Bremerhaven, Germany, pursued by Danish warships. They landed at the Port of New Orleans, Louisiana. The plague was very bad there, so they proceeded up the Mississippi River to St. Joseph, Missouri, and then Davenport, Iowa. They then came to Nebraska, settling just inside Merrick County, on the farm now owned by Walter Niedfelt, Sr.

Wilhelm's first wife was Wilhelmina Witt, also from Germany. They had four children: Frederick (Fritz) Ernest, who married Wilhelmina Sophie Kruse; Marie, married to Rudolph Kroeger; Wilhelmina, married William Wulf; and Heinrick Frederick, who married Sophia Winkelman. After the death of his first wife, Wilhelm married Sophia Wittmershaus, also in Germany. Wilhelm and Sophia had three children: Sophia, who married Christian Goettsche; Diedrich, married to Ella Scherzberg; and William, who married Mary Steinmeyer. The six oldest children were born in Germany, and the youngest son was born in Merrick County.

Wilhelm Niedfelt and his family were sponsored in their immigration to the United States by the Stratman family of Chapman, Nebraska. The oldest son, Fritz, and his descendants took the spelling Nietfeldt. Heinrick (Henry) and his descendants took the spelling Nietfeld. Diedrich and William retained the original Niedfelt spelling; hence, the various spellings of Niedfelt — even though all families are related.

Wilhelm Niedfelt passed away February 22, 1913 at Grand Island, at the age of eighty-two. His wife had preceded him in death on January 18, 1889, at the age of fifty-five. They are buried in the Grand Island City Cemetery, in the older section. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

KRISTOFFER NIELSEN FAMILY

Alborg, Denmark was the home of Kristoffer Nielsen for the first twenty-four years of his life. At that age, taking with him, his most prized possession, a Stradivarius violin, Kristoffer Nielsen left his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Christian Nielsen, three sisters and boarded the boat to America. Many times, he is quoted as saying, "On board the boat, I played my violin and they danced."

Kristoffer Nielsen arrived in Merrick County during 1888 and bought a farm on Prairie Island from a Mr. Caswel.

On December 4, 1892, Kristoffer was united in marriage to Laura Nielsen, a daughter of Paul C. and Elsie Miller Nielsen. Laura was born June 15, 1877 at Rawlings, Wyoming and came to Prairie Island at the age of one year.

Kristoffer and Laura were the parents of six children, Arthur, Paul, Elizabeth and Anna. Two infants died at birth. Their children attended School District #22, one half mile north of their farm. While reminiscing with my Aunt Anna, Mrs. Frank Jefferson, she commented that District #22 was the smallest school building in Merrick County, but at one time twenty-three pupils attended school there. Also what fun it was for the children to bring their teacher home for "supper."

After living in a very small house these many years, in 1910, a dining room, living room, two bedrooms and a porch were added to the home. This made family life much more comfortable. A few years later, a beautiful barn was built on the farm and dances were held in the loft of this barn. "Grandpa" Kristoffer played his cherished violin for practically all dances in the area.

Sadness came to their family when their son, Arthur, died at the age of twenty-six years following goiter surgery at Omaha, Nebraska.

In 1927, after the marriage of my father, Paul, Kristoffer and Laura and their daughter, Elizabeth, moved to Central City. Their daughter, Anna, living in Central City and working for Lawson's Greenhouse since 1924, also lived with them until her marriage to Frank Jefferson. Elizabeth found employment at Nordstrom Cleaners.



Kristoffer Nielsen Family

Grandpa and Grandma Nielsen enjoyed a happy life. They died only a year apart, Grandpa in 1942 and Grandma in 1943. Aunt Elizabeth continued working until her death of pneumonia in 1953. My father, Paul, enjoyed good health and lived on the "home place" until his death in 1966. As I have stated before, Aunt Anna Jefferson has given me much of this information and she still enjoys her life with her family. *By Irene Nielsen Hahn*



Paul C. Nielsen Family

PAUL & AGNES NIELSEN

There are not too many people that are born, live their entire life and die on the family farm. My father, Paul C. Nielsen, did exactly this. Paul was born in 1895, a son of Kristoffer and Laura Nielsen, on their farm at Prairie Island. Along with his brother and two sisters, he attended School District #22, one of the two country schools on Prairie Island and the smallest school house in Merrick County.

Born in 1905, Agnes Paulsen's parents were Paul C. and Anna Lassen Paulsen and she, along with a sister and a brother, attended School District #29 in Howard County north of Elba.

Paul and Agnes were introduced by a mutual friend and on October 12, 1927 were married at the farm home of her parents. Paul and Agnes Paulsen Nielsen then began their married life on the Nielsen family farm at Prairie Island. Completing their family were their children, a son, Gordon and a daughter, Irene. Their children also went to the same tiny school house their father had attended.

Paul particularly enjoyed the livestock he raised on the farm: the hereford cattle, hogs, horses and even colts he trained. Each spring found Agnes looking forward to mothering her brood of baby chickens. At one time 1000 laying hens were under her care.

Dad was a proud farmer, taking special care of the land, each year always finding time to walk the fields, hand-cutting all cockleburrs, sunflowers and other obnoxious weeds. Even the pastures were given his special care with a spring cutting of the rose bushes and unwanted cedar trees.

As with everyone, the depression years were "hard" years, but work and their faith in God sustained them. Paul, Agnes, Gordon and Irene became members of the Fridhem Lutheran Church at Hordville, and on their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, Paul and Agnes held an open house for their many relatives and friends at this church.

After retiring at the age of sixty-five, Dad then became a "garden farmer," yet always watching the growth of the field crops with pride. Every spring, Dad made a statement, "I am not planting a big garden this year!" But speaking from experience, those string bean rows seemed a half mile long when we started picking them.

Yes, Paul C. Nielsen died of a heart attack June 6, 1966 on the farm he nurtured and cared for all his life. Agnes then built a home in Central City and moved just before Christmas of 1966. Sadness was not to elude our small family yet. Never enjoying good health, my brother, Gordon, died in 1967 at the age of thirty-nine, eighteen months following our father's death. He left his wife and three children.

My mother still lives in her home, enjoying her five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Of course, I am their daughter, Irene, married to Dwayne Hahn, and we have two children. We also reside in Central City. *By Irene Nielsen Hahn*



Paul C. and Elise Nielsen — 1924

PAUL & ELSIE NIELSEN

Paul C. Nielsen was born in the eastern district of North Yueland, Denmark, in 1848. Elise Miller was born in the same district in 1852. In 1871 Paul came to America. After spending two years in Wyoming he returned to Denmark where he and Elise were married in 1874. They sailed for America that same year, bringing with them little Chris, Paul's son by his first marriage. They settled in Rawlings, Wyoming, living there four years. Their oldest daughter was born there.

In 1878 the family came to Nebraska and settled on Prairie Island. There the rest of their children were born and reared, making a total of two daughters and seven sons. They were Chris, Laura, (Mrs. Christopher Nielsen), Malinda (Mrs. Charles Hollandsworth), Paul E., Oscar, Anton, Charles, James, and Harold.

It was in the early days of their residence on the Island that Paul completed his naturalization, this duty being performed by Attorneys J.W. Sparks and John Patterson.

Paul and Elise left the farm in 1917 and moved to Central City, where they spent their remaining years.

On February 19, 1924, they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary and the following excerpt was taken from the February 21, 1924 Central City Republican, written by Robert Rice, Editor and Publisher:

"Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen spent some forty years on their farm and were held in high esteem and affection by residents of the community. Honorable and high minded, just in their dealings with their fellow man, kindly and charitable, they came gradually to be recognized as among the best the country afforded. Both still have the same indomitable spirit that fired them when young with the courage to place a vast ocean between themselves and those whom they held most dear and carve out a future for themselves, strangers in a strange land. They are truly a wonderful couple, surrounded by the love of their children and their children's children, and enjoying the company each of the other over the long journey of fifty years over the same road."

Elise died in the fall of 1924 and Paul died in 1926. One of their sons, Charles, born in 1887, followed his father in the farming profession. In 1913 he married Dorothy Lock, daughter of William and Anne Lock, who were also pioneers, having come from England. Charles and Dorothy were the parents of five children, Virginia (Shively), Ileen (Johnson), Doris (Bodeman), Bernard and Wayne.

Doris is my mother. Never forgetting the problems and despair besetting her parents during their farming years in the Great Depression of the 1930's, she spent from 1956 to 1981 with the Merrick County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, witnessing the many changes that took place in the agricultural industry during that period.

I, along with a sister, Anne (Mrs. Donald D. Widga), and a brother, Bradley K., was raised in Merrick County. I left Central City in 1962 and have since made my home in Colorado. In 1964 I married William B. Cox. We are the parents of two daughters, Lisa and Lori. *Submitted by Dorsey Bodeman Cox*

DAVID NIEMOTH FAMILY

David Paul Niemoth was born on December 15, 1945, in Merrick County to Victor and Clara Augustin Niemoth. He attended Pleasant Ridge District #32 School and Grand Island Senior High School. He was a member of the first graduating class of Northwest High School, the Class of 1964. He also graduated from Kearney State College with a B.S. in Business Administration and Economics and has attended numerous banking schools. He started his banking career at the Overland National Bank in Grand Island in 1962, and was Senior Vice President of the Bank of Doniphan before resigning recently to become President of The Byers State Bank in Byers, Colorado. He is a Viet Nam veteran.



David and Judith K. Hollister Niemoth

David married Judith K. Hollister on November 4, 1967. She is a daughter of Millard and Myrtle Markham Hollister, and was born October 11, 1946, at Doniphan. Judy graduated from Hastings High School and also from Kearney State College with a B.S. in Elementary Education and a minor in French. She taught school for several years.

David and Judy Niemoth have four children: Jodi Denae, ten; Jason David, seven; Jeana Diane, five; and Jared Daniel, one. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

FRANK T. NIEMOTH FAMILY

Frank T. Niemoth was born April 7, 1867, in Oshkosh, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, the oldest son of John and Wilhelmiene Lindstedt Niemoth. When he was eight years old, he moved with his parents to Grand Island, settling in Hall County. He was educated in the Hall County Schools.



Frank and Alida Ahrens Niemoth

Frank Niemoth married Alida Christine Ahrens on April 17, 1890. She was the daughter of Heinrich Christopher and Magdalena Ahrens and was born November 6, 1871, in Shelby County, Missouri. They resided on the Merrick County farm Frank had purchased in 1888 from the original homesteader, George F. Ryan.

Frank Niemoth was a general farmer and raised Hereford cattle. He served several terms as a Justice of the Peace in Merrick County. He also was a charter member of Pleasant Ridge Local 904 of the Farmers Union, organized in April of 1916, and served for many years on the Boards of Directors of the Farmers Union Co-op Mercantile Association and the Farmers Union Co-op Elevator in Chapman and on the school board of District #32.

Frank and Alida Ahrens Niemoth were the parents of eight children: Walter, George, Alex, Dora, Amalia, Paul, Oscar, and Victor. The children attended District #32 School (Pleasant Ridge).

Alex Fredrich Niemoth was born on July 9, 1895, to Frank T. and Alida Ahrens Niemoth. He passed away on July 20, 1909, at the age of fourteen, and is buried in the Wiegert Cemetery.

Frank and Alida Niemoth lived their retirement years in Chapman until their deaths in 1950 — Frank on March 6 and Alida on November 3, and they are buried in the Wiegert Cemetery. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

GEORGE NIEMOTH FAMILY

George Frank Niemoth was born on April 4, 1893, a son of Frank T. and Alida Ahrens Niemoth. He lived in Oklahoma for a period of time, then returned to a farm north of Grand Island. George later worked for the Farmers Union in Grand Island for a number of years.



George Niemoth family — 1930
Elise, Helen, Hazel and George

George married Elise Buckow on September 28, 1920. She was the daughter of William and Addie Winter Buckow. They are the parents of three daughters: Helen, married to A. Don Elrod; Hazel, who married William Hust; and Betty, married to Victor Olson.

George and Elise Niemoth now reside in Grand Island. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

JOHN NIEMOTH FAMILY

John Niemoth was born May 17, 1842, in Danzig, East Prussia. He came to the United States at the age of fourteen and for seven years afterward worked and lived among the Norwegians and learned their language.

John Niemoth, when twenty-two years old, married Wilhelmiene Lindstedt in the United States. She was born in Stetten, Lower Pomerania, on December 20, 1844. In 1873 their family, later to include six sons and four daughters, settled in Hall County, at which time John homesteaded 160 acres of land. Their children, some of whom lived in Merrick County later in their lives, were: Johanna, married to August Buchfinck; Frank, married to Alida Ahrens; Clara, who married Ernest Wagner; Amelie; Albert, married to Bertha Loescher; Fred, who married Aleda Beyersdorf; Robert, married to Augusta Vogel, and Richard, who married Emma Beyersdorf (Robert and Richard were twins); Augusta, married to Reinhardt Kunze; and Ernest, who married Margaret Rice.

John and Wilhelmiene Niemoth farmed until retirement in 1907, when they moved into Grand Island. At the time of his retirement, John Niemoth had accumulated several sections of farmland. Wilhelmiene Niemoth passed away June 25, 1913, and John passed away on February 14, 1921, at the age of seventy-eight. They are buried in the Wiegert Cemetery.

It is interesting that when the Niemoths came to the United States and settled in Wisconsin their name was spelled Niemuth. At the time John Niemoth applied for his homestead papers in Hall County, the gentleman at the land office told him his name had to be spelled Niemoth to achieve the proper pronounciation. Hence, the original Niemoth settlers in this area and their descendants spell their name Niemoth while those settling and remaining in Wisconsin and their descendants retained the original Niemuth spelling. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

OSCAR NIEMOTH FAMILY

Oscar H. Niemoth was born on October 16, 1906, to Frank T. and Alida Ahrens Niemoth, on the family farm in western Merrick County. He was married to Elsie Frenzen on June 16, 1929. She was a daughter of Henry and Annie Wilkens Frenzen, born February 20, 1907, at Grand Island.

Oscar and Elsie Niemoth lived on their farm in extreme eastern Hall County until 1951 when they moved into Grand Island. At that time, Oscar assumed his duties as Hall County Assessor. After serving one term, he was then elected to two terms as the Hall County Treasurer.



Oscar and Elsie Frenzen Niemoth

Oscar and Elsie Niemoth were the parents of one son, Donald, who is married to the former Sondra Wagner. Donald has been employed by the Post Office in Grand Island for a number of years.

Oscar Niemoth passed away September 11, 1969, and Elsie passed away on June 8, 1973. They are buried in the Grand Island City Cemetery. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

PAUL NIEMOTH FAMILY



Paul and Edna Blaise Niemoth
1931

Paul Theodore Niemoth was born on December 15, 1901, a son of Frank T. and Alida Ahrens Niemoth. He was married to Edna Blaise on May 28, 1931. She was a daughter of William and Wilhelmina Knefelkamp Blaise, born June 21, 1908, at Grand Island.

Paul and Edna Niemoth lived on their farm in western Merrick County until 1956 when they moved into Central City. At that time, Paul assumed the position of manager of the Merrick County Weed Control District.

Paul and Edna Niemoth were the parents of two daughters. Jean Niemoth married Rod Farmer, who has served a number of years as Director of the YMCA in Des Moines, Iowa. Jean has taught school since her graduation from Midland College in Fremont, Nebraska. Susan Niemoth is married to Jerry Shalberg, and they live in Grand Island where Susan is employed by the Grand Island Government Employees Credit Union and Jerry is a foreman for the utilities department for the City of Grand Island.

Paul Niemoth passed away December 6, 1967, and Edna passed away on November 26, 1968. They are buried in the West Lawn Cemetery at Grand Island. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

VICTOR NIEMOTH FAMILY

Victor L. Niemoth was born July 18, 1909, in Merrick County, the youngest of eight children of Frank and Alida Ahrens Niemoth.



John Niemoth Family — **Front l-r** — Frank, John, Augusta, Ernest, Wilhelmiene, and Albert. **Back** — Robert, Amelie, Fred, Johanna, Clara, and Richard.



Victor and Clara Augustin Niemoth

He married Clara Augustin on April 19, 1939, at Worms. She was the daughter of George and Minnie Kuehn Augustin and was born September 28, 1912, at Kenesaw, in Adams County, Nebraska. They resided on the Niemoth farm in extreme western Merrick County. Their two children, Karen and David, were also born on this farm.

Victor and Clara Niemoth lived on the farm until retiring in 1965, when they moved to near Grand Island. He then worked in Grand Island until 1972. Victor passed away on January 24, 1980, and Clara continues to live on Route 1, Grand Island. Victor is buried in the West Lawn Cemetery at Grand Island. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

WALTER NIEMOTH FAMILY

Walter John Niemoth was born June 3, 1891, the oldest son of Frank T. and Alida Ahrens Niemoth, on the family farm in western Merrick County. He purchased his present Hall County farm in 1915 from his grandfather, John Niemoth.



Nils Otto Nordstrom

Walter married Erna Wiegert on May 10, 1917. She was a daughter of Herman and Augusta Stiller Wiegert, born November 22, 1891. They were the parents of four sons: Alfred, married to Geraldine Powell; Vern, married to Inez Loescher; Ralph (Dan), who married Imogene Graff (later her death in 1970, he married Lois Hartmann); and Walter, Jr., married to Arlene Hargens.

Walter and Erna Niemoth lived on their farm all their married life. Erna passed away April 24, 1978, and Walter continues to live on the farm. Erna is buried in the West Lawn Cemetery at Grand Island. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

LLOYD NITZEL

My grandparents, Christina and Henry Nitzel, and their three children came to the United States in 1852 from Germany. Their voyage on a sailing ship took sixteen weeks. They settled in Illinois where they lived with some friends for a short time. While working in a factory at Sandwich, Illinois, my grandfather had an accident which eventually caused his death in 1868. Christina was left with six children and, of these, three were yet at home. Out of necessity, she took in washings to help support the family.

In 1875, Grandmother learned that the Union Pacific Railroad was selling some land that the government had given it for extending its lines further west. She purchased 240 acres, three miles north and one and one-half miles east of Archer. In 1876, she traveled by Union Pacific Railroad to



Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd I. Nitzel

Merrick County with two sons and a daughter. Subsequently, she built a small four-room house, with the assistance of neighbors. Three married daughters, Eliza, Nettie and Sarah, remained in Illinois.

In 1891, Christina decided to sell equal portions of her land to her sons, Adolph and William. Her daughter, Minnie, had married and moved to Rogers, Nebraska.

My father, Adolph, married mother, Sophia Van Pelt in 1892. Her parents, who were neighbors, had moved from Ohio in 1872. Our family included Lloyd, Jeff, Paul, and Marjorie. All of us were born in the same house that Christina had built. We children attended an eighth grade school that was one-half mile distant. Also, our family regularly attended services at Fairview Methodist Church. Our congregation included a number of boys who enjoyed playing ball, which our parents permitted on Saturdays, but not Sundays.

One of the first mechanized vehicles that my parents owned was a Model T. It was purchased in 1908 for $1,000. In the house, father had installed running water and battery-powered electric lights in 1912. In 1920, we purchased a Ford tractor to help with the farm operations. REA was brought to the farm in 1938, and quickly replaced the earlier electrical system.

I was in my middle teens when my father had an accident which resulted in my leaving school to assist with the farm work. In 1922, after my father had retired, when Jeff and I were renting the place, I met one of the local teachers, Lillian Condell. In 1924 we were married. Within a few years we bought the farm from my brothers and sister. I raised grain crops, hay, and livestock. My extra activities included the fair board, on which I later served as treasurer, and the weed board. Lillian, in addition to caring of our home, raised a yearly batch of chickens. Together we were involved with our church and with our children, Yvonne and Dale.

The depression years of the 1930's served to knit our family closer together. We still share some special days each year. Good times are relived with visits to the farm which we left in 1966, when we moved into Central City. It's as though a portion of our lives has been indelibly marked on that soil. *Written by Lloyd Nitzel*

STEN NORDSTEDT FAMILY

Sten L. Nordstedt was born October 2, 1884 at Motala, Sweden. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Carl Nordstedt. Sten was a naval cadet from age fifteen to seventeen and later joined the staff of a British Liner that plied between England and New York City. He came to the United States in 1903 and for four years was associated with the B.L. Paine Clothing Company in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Nordstedt formed a partnership with J.G. Carlson in 1907 and the two purchased the clothing store of N.O. Nordstrom for whom they had worked for a year in Central City. Following a fire that destroyed the store in 1914, the partnership was dissolved with Mr. Nordstedt continuing in the clothing business and Mr. Carlson opening a shoe store.

Mr. Nordstedt made many contributions in service to the city and community as he collected a wide circle of friends in Central Nebraska. He was a scoutmaster for many years and at one time was Aksarben Ambassador for the Central City area. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus.

He was married to Mary Alice Logan October 4, 1910 in Omaha. They had one daughter, Marcia Neil. Mrs. Nordstedt was a tireless and energetic worker in many civic enterprises. For more than twenty years she served as the local Red Cross Chapter Service Officer. Mrs. Nordstedt was fatally injured September 25, 1951 in a traffic accident west of Chapman, Nebraska.

Mr. Nordstedt retired in 1954, selling his clothing business to Charles J. Heeney. After his retirement, Sten spent much of his time with a niece, Elsa Erlandson in Stockholm, Sweden. He died September 26, 1965 in Stockholm. His body was brought to the United States with burial in the Central City Cemetery.



Sten L. Nordstedt

Marcia Neil was married to William Coval Patterson in New York City in 1941. Marcia Neil attended Duchesne College, Omaha, Nebraska and Hastings College, Hastings, Nebraska. She had been prominent in radio for a number of years in New York City. The Pattersons had two daughters and one son; Pamela, Patricia and Neil. Marcia Neil died 1980 in Pelham, New York. *Compiled by Charles J. Heeney*

NILS OTTO NORDSTROM

Nils Otto Nordstrom, born in Lulea, Sweden, April 9th, 1872 — Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Nordstrom, became an apprenticed tailor at age seventeen. Learning about great opportunities in America, he and a cousin left their family homes to explore the U.S.A. They experienced many hardships, arriving in Leadville, Colorado in 1889. They worked in the silver mines to earn their way. His art



Nils Otto Nordstrom

of custom tailoring proved helpful and he was in demand in that field. Later he came to Aurora, Nebraska to do tailoring. There he met Hannah Tunall and they were married June 1892. They received a dowry and an opportunity to live in Greeley, Nebraska, moved to Osceola, Nebraska for a couple of years — then to C.C. in 1900. He worked for Axel Levene above Tooley's Drug Store and later for John Machamer. He operated the Nordstrom Clothing and Dry Goods store in the old Opera House building for several years. This building was destroyed by fire in 1914.

N.O. (as he was often called) purchased the McGill Cleaners and operated on this site where the Sampson Law office is today. Realizing the need for a first class cleaning and laundry business in C.C. and with the help of his family and friends, he built the place now occupied by the C.C. Republican-Nonpareil office, in 1926. Nordstrom Cleaners & Launderers became one of the most modern and complete services in Nebraska, and a credit to C.C. and neighboring towns. He employed fifteen to eighteen people and enjoyed giving customers good service and high quality workmanship. This required many long hours and years of hard work for everyone, with great satisfaction to N.O. He became ill with leukemia and passed away August 1938, at age sixty-six. He was a member of the Masonic Blue Lodge, Knights Templar, and Tehama Shrine, also Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen and C.C. Commercial Club. He was affiliated with the Swedish Lutheran Church in 1904 as an original member. N.O. was proud to be an American Citizen, taking part in many Civic affairs. He joined the Home Guards during World War I.

There were six children: Otis, Harold, Helen, Ethel, Floyd and Clyde. All attended C.C. schools and assisted in the business. Only one is living to date — Helen Smith Anderson, Central City. Grandson Bill Nordstrom and great grandchildren, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

After N.O.'s death the business was carried on by Ralph and Helen Smith who had been associated in the business since 1923, becoming the owners in 1943. After 27 years of hard work and satisfaction, Helen and Ralph sold the family business in 1949 to retire and enjoy life, but Ralph's health failed and he passed away in 1955. Thus Mr. Nordstrom dreams and efforts were carried out as he had wished. The business changed ownership several times and by 1979 seemed to phase out. Ethel Gantz died May 25, 1981 and Floyd died in June 1981. *Submitted by Helen E. Anderson*

ELMER & STELLA NORRIS

Cyrus Elmer Norris was born in Ohio in 1871 to John Cyrus and Neotia Myers Norris. He came to Merrick County, Nebraska in the year 1897 and worked as a farm hand for his uncles, Jefferson and Harrison Myer, until March of 1900.

In March of 1900, he married Stella Cowgill, daughter of George Simpson Cowgill and Mary Elizabeth Denney Cowgill.

Elmer and Stella Norris then bought a farm in Polk County, Nebraska, where they lived and farmed for forty-five years. They then retired from farming and moved to Central City, Nebraska, where they lived for the remainder of their lives.

Eight children were born in Polk County to Elmer and Stella Norris.

A daughter, Hazel Norris, taught school in Merrick County for four years and married Roland Boelts in 1942. They lived and farmed in Merrick County for five years. They then bought a farm in Hamilton County, Nebraska, and with their two children moved to Hamilton County. A third child was born to them in Central City when they lived in Hamilton County.

In 1978, Roland and Hazel Norris Boelts retired and moved to Central City where we plan to live the remainder of our lives.

Another daughter of Elmer and Stella Norris, Zetha Norris, married Stewart Abel and resides in Columbus, Nebraska. *Submitted by Hazel Boelts*

EMIL & ANNA NOVOTNE

Emil and Anna Novotne came to Merrick County in March of 1960 when they bought the Midway Liquor store. They operated this business until retirement in 1970. Anna worked for seven years at Bethesda Home, after the business was sold.

Both Emil and Anna were born at Gibbon, Nebraska and received their education there. Emil was born September 1906 to Joseph and Mary Novotne who were farmers near Gibbon. Both his parents had been brought to America from Czechoslovakia as children. Anna, the daughter of John and Sophia Kriha was born June 1914. John and Sophia Kriha were both Gibbon natives.

Married in June of 1930, the Novotnes moved to a farm north of Gibbon, where they experienced the hard work and heartbreaking experiences of all farmers during the dust bowl and pre-irrigation days of farming. To provide for his family, Emil worked whenever he could for farmers growing beets and potatoes. These farmers were among the first to begin irrigation practices on a small scale in growing potatoes and beets.

When married only two months, the Novotne's arrived home one night to find their home and it's contents completely destroyed by fire. With the help of family and friends, they were able to gather enough possessions to "start again."

The Novotnes have two children. Patricia L. Filbon, now lives at Wood River where her husband is parts man for John Deere. Patricia is a rural mail carrier. Their children are Michelle, Cindy and Lisa. James A. is married to Mary Vanderheiden and lives at Aurora. He is sales manager for Century Manufacturing Company. Mary is a nurse and works professionally part time. Their children are Eric and Cassandra.

When Novotnes moved to Central City they bought their home at 2315 17th Avenue. The area was practically open country to the south. They have enjoyed watching the development of the Methodist Church, Bethesda Care Home, two medical clinics, Lone Tree Park, Senior High School and expansion of the Hospital.

Anna and Emil, though not native to Merrick County, have come to love Central City and it's people and call this place home. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Emil Novotne*

MARGARET HEATON O'CONNER



Margaret O'Conner

Margaret A. Heaton was born July 21, 1856 to Henry James and Elizabeth Heaton. Her father was born September 14, 1828 in Heath County, Ireland where he grew up in Ireland. He went to England where he became a Valet to Sir Rowan Hill who had been Knighted by Queen Victoria. He met his future wife while he was employed by Sir Rowan Hill. Henry Heaton and Elizabeth Hill eloped and went back to Ireland. After Elizabeth's marriage her father disinherited her. The couple lived in Ireland for awhile. Their son, Stephan, was born. They left Ireland and while they were traveling to Canada their daughter, Margaret, was born only eight days after leaving Ireland. They first settled at Smith Falls, Canada, later moved to Montreal where the other daughter, Maria, was born in 1857. They opened a candy and book store in Montreal. The mother passed away while the children were very young.

Stephan Heaton left Canada when he was twenty years old, coming to the U.S. He came to Nebraska where he joined a crew on the Union Pacific Railroad. They were laying the tracks from Omaha to the west. He came to Central City and followed up to Promentory Point and was present when they drove the Golden Spike. He made construction on railroad and bridges his life work. Working in Nebraska, Wyoming and later in Central and South America he died in Lima, Peru leaving a wife and daughter.

Margaret followed her brothers to the U.S. coming directly to Central City (or Lone Tree) as it was then called. When she arrived she stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Kombrink and helped Mrs. Kombrink cook for the crew. Mr. Kombrink was the section foreman. She applied for a government grant in 1868, the land where Mrs. John Hake now lives. She suffered the many hardships of the pioneers, living in a sod house.

While living with Mr. and Mrs. Kombrink she met her future husband, who had come east to Nebraska and was employed with the same construction crew of the Union Pacific. He was also at Promontory Point at the driving of the Golden Spike.

John O'Connor was born in Dublin, County Cork, Ireland in 1835. As a young boy he suffered the loss of his mother. When he grew up he left home and came to the United States. He and Margaret Heaton were married in the section house occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Kombrink by a visiting priest from Columbus in 1874. The house was also used as a church by circuit priests as there were no churches at that time.

They moved onto the claim after their marriage. To this union were born six children: two sons who died in infancy and four daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, Margaret and Julia.

John O'Connor passed away in 1885 from pneumonia. Margaret O'Connor continued living on the claim raising her family. In later years, she moved to town. She passed away in June 1921.

Margaret's father, Henry Heaton remarried in 1866. He married Ann Conway who was also from Ireland, Tryane County and who had come to Montreal. Their oldest children were born in Canada: Frank, Patrick and Mary Ann. The children born later were: Henry O. Heaton born at Lone Tree in 1872; Thomas Heaton born at Lookout, Wyoming; Wert in Canada where he passed away in 1937; James Heaton born November 16, 1875, passed March 14, 1890 at the age of sixteen and Esther Heaton born in 1877 and passed away in June, 1923. *Submitted by Granddaughter, Marcia (Mrs. John) McClay*

ERNEST OGDEN FAMILY

Ernest S. Ogden and Edna Royal Laub were married January 18, 1911 in the Fred Laub home in Chapman. They were both born and reared in Chapman, and both graduated from the ninth grade of the Chapman Schools, May 23, 1901. Edna went back the next year to take the tenth grade since it was being offered for the first time. Ernest and his sister, Ethel, attended the Grand Island Academy for a year. They lived in a small apartment and did their own cooking. Their mother would come with the horse and buggy periodically to replenish their food supplies. Since there was not a good system of roads then, she would travel cross-country, taking a trail near Capitol Avenue road to get to the College area on the north side of Grand Island. Ernest also attended the Holdrege Business College for a year.

The first piece of land he bought was eighty acres



Ernest and Edna Ogden — 1911

from Jessie Friman in 1907 for $5600, known for years as "Ernie's Eighty." C.B. Smith put down the first irrigation well for Ernest around 1932. Ditches were made with a walking plow which necessitated a good deal of hand shoveling. It was an experimental project and there were many problems. His next well went down in 1938 and the third one in the early 1940's. By this time, they were surveying and doing some land leveling and worked with improved equipment.

In the late teens, Ernest tried farming with a steam engine but found it was too heavy and hard to get around the corners. In the early 1920's, he bought a Waterloo Boy, a two cylinder engine, forerunner of the John Deere.

Ernest especially liked the livestock end of farming and did considerable trading in horses first, and later in cattle. He started shipping cattle to the Omaha Livestock Market in 1913 and received recognition for fifty years of continuous patronage in May of 1963. In the early days, the cattle were driven to the railraod yards in Chapman, loaded on livestock cars, and shipped by rail. Ernest rode on the same train so he could care for the stock, staying in Omaha for the sale and coming home again by train.

Chapman was a rough and tumble railroad town in those days, and since Edna was left alone much of the time, Ernest bought her a revolver and taught her how to use it for protection.

Ernest and Edna both loved music. He played the coronet and she played the piano and they both sang. Ernest conducted a church orchestra and served as choir director in the Baptist Church. He also taught a Sunday School Class for years, and was a member of the District #9 School Board for many years. Edna was a member of Eastern Star and Ernest, a fifty year member of the Masonic Lodge.

Edna died January 3, 1970 and Ernest on March 3, 1970. Both buried at Chapman. Their children are Royal of Tucson, Arizona and Loren of Chapman. *Submitted by Barbara Ogden*



James Ogden — Ella Ogden

J.M. OGDEN FAMILY

James Matthew Ogden and Charry Ellen (Ella) Sutton were married in Cass County, Illinois, April 21, 1878 and lived there until 1883 when they moved to Chapman. John H. Watkins who had been orphaned at two and one-half years of age came to live with the Ogdens at age thirteen, and accompanied them westward to Chapman and remained in their home until he was grown.

After arriving here, they lived for a while with John Hardin Sutton (Ella's brother) two miles north of Chapman on the old Mashek place while their future home just west of Chapman was being readied by the addition of two rooms.

Their two children were Ethel Ceola, born December 22, 1880 at Oakford, Illinois and Ernest Sutton, born March 16, 1885 on their farm just west of Chapman. The Ogden family lived there until January 1893, when they purchased and moved to the Dr. Joel E. Morrill home, adjoining the townsite of Chapman. (Dr. Joel Morrill practiced medicine in the Chapman community for thirty-five years besides having a pharmacy and an interest in a packing plant. His wife, Polly Young) Morrill was a sister of Mrs. Fred Laub.)

James and Ella were charter members of the First Baptist Church, organized January 26, 1893. Mr. Ogden was an ordained Deacon in the church and Mrs. Ogden was President of the Ladies Aid Society for fourteen years and church chorister, seventeen years.

J.M. Ogdens first car around 1911 was an Auburn. The company sent a man out to teach him how to drive it and when he left, he told Mr. Ogden the car was now "all his." Sometime later, he decided to put the car away in the garage — he drove in, pulled back on the steering wheel — yelled Whoa! — and the car went right on through!

In 1912, the Ogdens built a new house across the road for $1500. Ella died in 1914. Mr. Ogden married Birdie Conyers of Newmansville, Illinois in 1915, but before they came home, she died of typhoid fever. He then married Stella Lutes June 25, 1917 and they lived in his home in the west end of Chapman until his death in May of 1926. *Submitted by Barbara Ogden*

LOREN OGDEN FAMILY

Loren Ogden was born April 21, 1923 to Ernest and Edna Ogden and has lived all his life here on the west edge of Chapman. He attended grade school and graduated from the Chapman High School in 1940, and the next year took the Agricultural Short Course at the University of Nebraska.

I was born on the Magnuson family farm six and one-half miles northwest of Chapman, August 28, 1924. I received my grade school education in District #28, one-fourth mile from our home, which incidentally was the same school my mother and father, Sam and Anna Magnuson, attended. I graduated from Chapman High School in 1941 and then studied a year at the Grand Island Business College. I worked then as a Secretary for Carpenter Paper Company in Grand Island for almost two years.

Loren and I were married at the First Baptist Church in Chapman, June 9, 1944. This was wartime and everything was scarce, including housing. So we moved into three rooms of his parents home which had been fixed over for us. Loren was in a farming partnership with his father and it was a year later and close to the end of the war when he was drafted into military service. He was sent to Camp Roberts, California. The end of the war brought feelings of joy and relief that families could be back together again. The drought and depression that we had grown up in was over and it was a whole new way of life.

In the late fall of 1946, Dwight Merryman started to build a house and we moved in the last part of February 1947, just a week before Richard was born March 2, 1947. Three years later on April 1, 1950, our daughter, Lynn was born. Those were busy years, raising a family and when the children were old enough to be in 4-H they were kept busy all summer with their projects and I served also as a 4-H Leader for ten years.

We are members of the First Baptist Church in Chapman and have held many offices through the years. Loren and I have always been choir members and Loren sang many years with a male quartet.

Our children graduated from Grand Island Senior High School. Richard went on to graduate from the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture and Lynn studied a year at Denver Womens College. After Richard served his tour of duty in Vietnam, he came back to the farm and on November 27, 1971, he and Pamela Hickey of Lincoln, Nebraska, were married. Pamela graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in Dental Hygiene. They live in the old Ernest Ogden home and are the fourth generation Ogdens to work this farm. They have three children, Lora Lynn, Elizabeth Ellen, and Ty Sutton.

Lynn married Robert E. Gray, Englewood, Colorado on June 11, 1971, and they presently live in Yorba Linda, California. They have two children, Shawn Aaron and Laurel Nicole. *Submitted by Barbara Ogden*



Loren and Barbara Ogden — 1944

FRED JOHN OHLMAN FAMILY



Fred and Viola Ohlman — 1977

My father, Frederick, age seventeen, and three brothers came to the United States in 1883 from the Province of Hanover, Germany. After three months of ocean voyage, they landed in New York and made their way to Seward County, Nebraska, where a married sister lived. He worked near Staplehurst for several years before moving to Buffalo County, Nebraska, where he married my mother, Clara Moss, who was born at Valparaiso, Indiana. They lived in a sod house for several years before buying an unimproved 160 acres where they built a house and other farm buildings north of Shelton, Nebraska.

I was the fifth of six children and when I was five years old, we moved to a farm in the Fergus Falls, Minnesota area. Fishing in a lake near our log house was my most enjoyable past time. Since they could not raise corn there, my father would cook potatoes in a large caldron to fatten his hogs. He would always smoke a row of fish strung on a wire above the caldron.

I can well remember the run-away my father had with a team of horses and a buggy. The bridle had become twisted on one of the horses, making it impossible to drive the horses. My brother, who was with him, jumped out of the back of the buggy leaving my father to fend alone with the run-away team. He finally got them calmed down when they plunged into a swamp. The family moved back to Shelton after four years in Minnesota.

I married Viola Holtz in 1932. Her paternal great-grandparents and grandparents came to the United States in 1851 from Schleswig, Germany. They were on the ocean for sixteen weeks. Their sailing ship was blown off course and landed in Galveston, Texas, instead of Boston, Massachussetts. A steamboat took them up the Mississippi River and they settled near St. Louis, Illinois, where they farmed until 1893, when they moved to the north Shelton, Nebraska, area.

In 1945, we moved to Merrick County after having fought drought and grasshoppers for thirteen years. Here our family of six children grew up.

We farmed the Otto Zlomke, Herb McCullough and Vern Nelson places at various times until moving on the Minnie Moore Place in 1965, which we owned. A few days before we intended to move to this place, a disasterous fire swept through the house, destroying most of it. It took several months, with the help of neighbors and friends, to rebuild and move in.

Our family has always been affiliated with the Lutheran Church where I have been trustee a number of times. Viola taught Sunday School for many years. She also taught in several rural schools in Merrick County and in the Hordville Public Schools. All our six children graduated from Central City High School. Our daughters, Myrna, Ruth, and Dorian, took part in the musical programs, and our sons, Donald, Jerry, and Bernard, were active in the sports program. We now enjoy our eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. *Submitted by Fred John Ohlman*

OLSON — LOVEJOY

August and Charlotte Page came to the United States from Sweden in the early 1800's and became the parents of at least three children in Hamilton County. John, Anna and Emma. Emma later married A.D. Lear and they became the parents of Iva, Mrs. Roy Larson. John's own story is elsewhere in this book. Annie was born in 1870 and married Carl G. Olson, who was born in Sweden in 1868. Home for them was always Central City, Nebraska. Carl, or Charlie, as most people knew him came to Aurora, Nebraska and walked to his cousin's home near Marquette, Nebraska. Along the way he picked an ear of corn which was one of the wonders of this country which was to be his new home. Charlie and Annie spent most of their married life living on the Maplehurst Ranch which is where Joe and Betty O'Hare have lived for many years at the southwest corner of Central City. It was a Hord farm and now is owned by Dinsdales. Carl passed away in 1952 and Annie died in 1949. Both are buried in the Central City Cemetery.



Lovejoys, Lears, and Olsons

On June 23, 1900 a daughter Gladys A. was born to Carl and Annie Olson. She later married Arthur W. Lovejoy, son of Chester and Lulu Lovejoy, also long time Merrick County residents. Gladys and Arthur lived on the College Section for many years. Wherever Gladys lived she raised chickens, had lots of flowers both inside the house and in her yard. They always enjoyed playing cards with their neighbors and were great family folk. Arthur and Gladys lived at the Hord Home Ranch for a few years before moving into town and later to California to be near their son's family until their death. Howard was their son and he and family are now living in Central City. Gladys passed away October 8, 1960 and Arthur died February 15, 1972 and both are buried at Central City, Nebraska. *Submitted by Raymona Grigsby*

MAUDE S. FERRIS OSBORNE

Maude Susan Ferris Osborne was the eldest child of George and Mary Johnston Ferris. Born in Galesburg, Illinois, she moved as a baby to Merrick County with her parents. She spent her first twelve years with her parents on their farm northwest of Central City, and then moved to Central City to attend school, staying with her maternal grandmother, Susan Johnston.

She graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1900 (class of the "naughty-oughts"), majoring in Latin and mathematics, and taught school in Broken Bow where she met her husband-to-be, Hiram (Harry) Osborne, a high school student who fell for the teacher. They were married January 2, 1904, and moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where their first child, Harold, was born. A year and a half later they moved to Denver, Colorado, where their second son, Paul, was born. They lived in Denver until Harry's death in 1933.

Maude loved to cook and entertain. When her younger son, Paul, was fourteen, she and Paul opened a bake shop in nearby Estes Park, which soon developed into a full-fledged restaurant. She operated the restaurant, Cottage Inn, during the summer months for several years. When she became a widow, Maude moved to Estes Park, buying a home with about four acres of land. While continuing her restaurant business, she branched out into the cottage business, having cottages built for summer rentals. These became the Fireside Cottages.

Her sons married and living in other parts of the country, she liked to have a nephew, niece or a girl from a nearby ranch, or finally a granddaughter, living with her. She became known in the village of Estes Park as "Mom Osborne" to everyone.

A heart condition finally forced this long-time business woman to move to a lower elevation. Leaving the Cottages with a capable manager, and having sold the restaurant a few years earlier, she moved to Edgewater, Colorado, near the home of Harold and his wife Lucille. She bought a house there. She died in 1950, at seventy-two, of a heart attack, just hours after the return of her son Harold, who had been visiting in the Lee Ferris home in Merrick County, and of her granddaughter, Nancy from her junior year at Nebraska Wesleyan.

Although she loved her adopted state of Colorado, she always found a trip to Nebraska a welcome change, and though she didn't live close to them, she was interested in her brothers and sisters and their children.

Harold spent many boyhood summers on his Uncle Lee Ferris's farm, and loved the farm, though he went on to become a newspaper man. Paul Osborne became an oil man. He had one son, Paul Ferris Osborne, Jr.

Nancy (Harold's daughter) spent many short vacations at the Ferris home, and her children, Karen Deal Robinson, Robert and Laura Deal, have enjoyed visits in Merrick County to visit the relatives living there and to see the childhood home of Maude Susan Ferris Osborne. *Contributed by Nancy Osborne Deal, (Granddaughter of Maude Ferris Osborne)*

THE OSTERMAN FAMILY

Charles Osterman purchased the present farm in 1894 from Wells Brewer, who obtained it by Homestead and Timberclaim shortly after the Civil War. Charles came to Merrick County from Fremont, Nebraska and operated the farm with his sons, Ed and Theo, until his death in 1920. Ed and Theo farmed in partnership until 1927 when Ed became the sole owner.

Ed married Clara Smith, the daughter of Oliver Smith, an early settler southwest of Central City. Ed and Clara had three children, Charles, Marion and Ruth. Ruth passed away in 1949.

Charles married Ruth Anderson in 1941, and they have one son, Edwin. Marion married Cecil Dunovan in 1937, and Cecil passed away in 1968. Marion presently lives in Lincoln and has two sons, Tom and Bob, and three grandchildren.

Ed Osterman was active in various Merrick County agricultural and civic organizations and served as a representative in the 1935-1937 session of the Nebraska Legislature, which was the last bicameral legislative session in Nebraska. Ed died in 1938, at which time Charles and his mother, Clara, assumed operation of the farm. Clara moved to the Merrick Manor in 1966 and resided there until her death in 1971.

Charles retired from the active operation of the farm in 1974 when his son, Edwin, became the operator. *Submitted by Charles Osterman*

THEODORE M. OSTERMAN

Theodore M. Osterman, farmer and businessman in Merrick County, was born in Fremont, Nebraska, January 4, 1879. He married Maude Hartley in 1899 and continued farming until his wife's death when he entered politics. He served five terms in Nebraska's two-house legislature, and one term as Senator from Merrick, Nance, and Platte Counties in the one-house legislature.



Theo M. Osterman

In 1934, he was appointed Administrative Assistant to Governor Roy Cochran. In 1936, he was appointed by Governor Cochran to the Liquor Control Commission of which he was Chairman when he resigned in 1948. He died in Lincoln, Nebraska, January 26, 1963.

Theo's family consists of his daughter, Alice, married to Clarence Rose, deceased; a grandson, Ted Rose, married to Faye Shimerda; and two great-grandsons, Tim and Terry Rose. *Submitted by Charles Osterman*

JOSEPH & ABIGAIL OURADA

Joseph and Abigail Grady Ourada came to Merrick County in 1916 from Colfax County, Nebraska, where they were native residents.

They farmed three locations in Merrick County, two farms of eighty acres before buying their farm southwest of Clarks in 1928, which became their permanent residence. Here they weathered a tornado which destroyed all buildings and livestock. The house was left standing, but badly damaged. They rebuilt to weather the depression and bad drought, managing to hang onto the 160 acres with the farm buildings.

Joe was a spirited, progressive farmer, being among the first to mechanize his farm and irrigate his land.

Abbie was a gifted artist; their home was filled with her water colors and painted china.

When their only daughter, Mary Elizabeth, left home in 1940, Abbie returned to teaching. She taught in the rural schools for many years, being much loved. Joe, too, was much attached to Abbie's students, and he received as many valentines and holiday gifts from them as Abbie.

In 1964, Abbie purchased an adjoining 160 acres from Clara Wahl with her own earnings as a teacher. Joe was very proud of her accomplishments, and always referred to this land as "Abbie's farm."

In 1965, Joe and Abbie celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with their friends and relatives at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Clarks, Nebraska.

Joe died in 1966 and Abbie in 1968. They rest in peace in Holy Cross Cemetery, the parish of St. Augustine, Schuyler, Nebraska, where they grew to adulthood and were married.

Their descendants are Mary Elizabeth Ourada McDermott, her daughter Mary Margaret McDermott Sirsi, and great-grandchildren John and Christine Sirsi. *By Mary E.O. McDermott*

EDWARD L. OWENS FAMILY

The fact that we ended up in Nebraska is testimony to our belief in the good life Nebraska has to offer, and that Merrick County is a good place to raise a family.

Edward Louis Owens was born March 25, 1930 in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, to Edward Lewis and Evelyn Hutzel Owens. His Owens grandparents came to this country from Wales as children, traveling steerage on cattle boats. Historians tell us Owens is one of six or eight authentic Welsh names. Hutzels were Pennsylvania Dutch and many cultural traditions continue, such as eating sauerkraut and pork on New Year's Day to insure good luck throughout the year; pickled eggs at Easter; avid belief in the power of hex signs. Ed also has Native American ancestors and his children are proud to be one-thirty-second Pontiac Indian.

In August, 1947, Ed joined the Army, seeing much of the world before "retiring" twenty years later. He was in Korea twice during that War, and helped evacuate Americans from mainland China prior to the Communist takeover. He also served in Germany, England, France, Turkey, and several stateside posts.

Kay Kathleen Reeves Owens was born May 21, 1937, at Central City to Theodore and Portia Marsh Reeves, third of their four children, and of English and German descent. Kin to many Merrick Countians, she is a descendent of Merrick County's first permanent white family, the Jason Parkers'.

Following graduation from University of Nebraska and Brigham Young University, Kay worked as a child welfare caseworker in Texas, took nine years "off" when children were young, worked with handicapped children, and as a therapist in a mental health center. Presently she is a caseworker for Nebraska Children's Home Society, an agency dating back to 1893, and which is responsible for placement of four nieces and nephews.

Ed and Kay were married June 23, 1961, at Chapman Baptist Church, Kay's childhood church and now the Owens family's church home.

Son Edward Ladd was born in El Paso, Texas, June 2, 1962. Daughter Karol Kathleen was born October 26, 1964, in Izmir, Turkey. Karol has the unique distinction of being a citizen of both the United States and Turkey.

In June, 1968, upon Ed's retirement from military service, the family returned to Nebraska. They live on the place Kay's grandparents, John and Helena Troh Reeves moved onto in 1899. Ted was born and raised there with his four sisters. Some of Helena's lilacs and honeysuckle still flourish. A new home was built in 1973, and the old home, including the 101 year old original homesteader's cabin was laid to a well deserved rest. Some original square nails are family treasures, and foundation stones from the original house, (hauled by wagon from Kansas) decorate a fireplace in the "new" home.

At this writing, Ed, who returned to school in 1977 and learned a new trade, is a carpenter, Kay is caseworking, Eddie is a student at University of Nebraska — Lincoln, and Karol at Central City High School. As our ancestors did, we hope our descendents too, will treasure the good life in Merrick County. *Submitted by Edward and Kay Owens*

THE JOHN PAGE FAMILY

It seems incredible that more than fifty years have passed since our family lived near the Platte River in Merrick County, Nebraska.

Our grandparents, August and Charlotte Page, immigrated from Sweden in the early 1800's, expecting to be met upon arrival by John, my grandfather's brother who operated a trading post and was also a wagon train scout. But, alas, when they disembarked there was no one to meet them, and although we have searched all available records the disappearance of our great uncle has always remained a mystery. Eventually, our grandparents found their way to Illinois and took up farming, then to Hamilton County, Nebraska, where our father,John, was born.

Our grandparents, Elias and Mary Smith, were born in Ohio in the 1850's, moved to a farm in Illinois where our mother, Etta, was born, then later to Nebraska in 1892. Our grandmother, Mary



Mr. and Mrs. John J. Page

Smith, was one of Merrick County's oldest residents; she passed away at the age of ninety-four, leaving 128 descendents. Our mother and father moved to Merrick County around 1900 and became associated with the Hord Company, farming, raising livestock, and rearing seven children. All of the Page children were born and grew up at the "Home Ranch" about two miles east of Central City. Our "growing up" territory was along the Platte River. While we were never accosted by Indians, we do remember tales our grandparents told of friendly renegrade Indians stopping by their sod home for food. Also a stop-over by members of James gang — as they later learned, much to their dismay.

While we were growing up, attending District #20 country school, we were made aware of the historical California and Mormon trails along the Platte River (the wagon train ruts were visible for many years in the pasture land) and a bluff on the south side of the river was identified as a scout lookout for wagon trains heading west. Ever conscious of the history of the Nebraska plains, our father brought in three buffalo from Wyoming. Only one survived, and he turned out to be the meanest critter on the plains. He could easily jump an eight foot fence, and all the children had to be kept in school or at home for protection until he was found and confined again.

Our oldest brother, Raymond, remained on the Home Ranch near Central City for many years. The remainder of our family moved to California. We still think of Nebraska as "home"; one brother, Cecil, returned home to Central City after retirement. The rest of us go back whenever we can. It seems to be one of the areas in the country that doesn't change much. The good times we enjoyed while growing up with all our relatives and friends, the hunting, skating, and fishing are fond memories that will last a lifetime. *Submitted by Donzola, Inez, Waldo, John, Cecil Page*

RAYMOND RUDOLPH PAGE

Raymond Page was born May 10, 1903, on the Techmacher farm. He was the first child of John Page and Etta Smith Page. He had four brothers and three sisters: Cecil, John (Jack), Waldo, Evelyn Ketch, Inez, and Donzola. Clifford died in infancy. The Page family moved to the Hord Home Ranch when Raymond was three. He and his brothers and sisters grew up there, and all attended District #20 and Central City High. Raymond graduated from high school with the class of 1924, where he excelled in football.

As World War II started the Page family, except for Raymond, moved to California.

His wife, Lucile Ermina Campbell, is the oldest child of Robert Campbell and Hattie Arrants, born May 29, 1902. Lucile moved throughout the midwest with the Campbell family, being graduated from Liberty, Missouri schools. She worked for a brief time in the telephone office there, and decided that wasn't to her liking, so studied to become a teacher. She taught term 1923-1924 at a rural school called Dill Valley. Lucile moved back to Nebraska with the Campbell family in 1924. She worked as a domestic in the Palmer area until the family moved to the Traver farm in 1925.

Lucile and Raymond met in 1925 in the front yard of the Hord Home Ranch east of Central City. The Campbells and Pages attended a traveling carnival together, "out in the field some place." Lucile says this wasn't their first "date," but from that time forward they went together. Raymond and Lucile were married in 1927 at the Traver farm, at the home of her parents. Their first home was on the Hord Ranch in a small, square house south of the big Hord home. Their daughter, Raymona, was born in that home which has since been moved into Central City. When Raymona was about four, they moved down to the corner house which was known as the Orchard House. Paul was born there in July, 1937.

When Paul was an infant, the Pages moved into the "Big House." They lived there until they quit farming for the Hord family, with Raymona and Paul having attended the same schools as their dad. Raymond was manager of the Hord Ranch for sixteen years. The ranch was part farming, part livestock operation, including hogs, sheep, and cattle. When Raymond quit, the family moved into Central City where he had different jobs, finally assuming the duties at the Hord elevator, from which post he retired.



Raymond and Lucile Page

In 1956, Raymond and Lucile moved into their present home across from the Christian Church. They were active members of that church until the late 1970's. Raymond was an elder, and a church board member. Lucile was a soprano in the choir and a Dorcas member. Page's celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at the church in 1977. Many hours were enjoyed by the Page's in just riding around the countryside and with their flowers and garden. Raymond also had a pen collection, and a rock collection. Lucile has a pitcher collection.

Raymond Page died December 6, 1978, and is buried in Central City.

Raymona married Robert Grigsby and lives with her family near Central City.

Paul Page married Charlene Haith, and their family lives at Broken Bow, Nebraska. *Submitted by Lucile Page and Raymona Grigsby*

PARKER FAMILY — PART I

Jason Parker (Harold Parker's great-grandfather) took up squatter's rights to land in Merrick County in April and brought his family in May 1859, the first settler with a family in the county.

In 1863 Jason Parker was one of the first county commissioners and his son, Truman F. Parker, a young man of twenty-two years, was sheriff.

Jason Parker was a man of decided opinions and had the courage of his convictions. Yet — his life was so straight forward, his honesty so apparent, that he made no enemies. He was one of our county commissioners at a time when his vote was worth money, but there was not enough in civilization to buy it, and a sturdy old fist would have been jammed into the face of anyone proposing a bribe.

With the exception of the stage station which was built of unscaled cottonwood timber in 1858, the Parker house was the oldest building in Merrick County. The house built in 1859 by Truman Franklin Parker, then eighteen, was a one-room structure fourteen feet by eighteen feet. The cottonwood lumber which enclosed the house was rough sawed and hauled from a mill on the Loup River. The cellar was of rough, uncut stone. The floor joists were supported by rough red cedar logs cut on the Platte River. The floor was constructed of finished lumber which was hauled by ox team from Fremont. The house was the first building in Merrick County to have a wood floor. It still had the original floor when the house was torn down in 1975. When the house was built they cooked in the southwest corner and slept in the northwest corner.

The land for the farm lying between the Platte River and the route of the Western Stage Trail was homesteaded in the 1860's by Truman Franklin Parker who held the deed signed by President U.S. Grant. To comply with the homesteading laws, Parker survived the first winter in a dugout along the river bank.

The old California Trail ran along the north side of the house.

The Pawnee squaws picked corn for Harold's grandfather. One day some Indians threw a piece of raw meat on his grandmother's stove. She chased them out with a broom. The chief said, "Me tellum Frank (Truman Franklin) you heap bad squaw."

Truman Franklin Parker was a freighter on the old California Trail between Council Bluffs and Denver. He made one trip each year leaving in the spring and returning in the fall. The ox team made about fifteen miles a day.

There was an old buffalo wallow on the southwest corner of the farm. Many arrowheads were found there.

Jason Parker, 1812-1895, father of Truman Franklin Parker, 1841 —1898, father of Lewis H. Parker, 1869-1951, father of Harold Parker, 1904-1977, father of Truman Vance Parker, born 1931, father of Bruce Edward Parker, born 1954. *Submitted by Mrs. Harold (Lois DeLancey) Parker*

PARKER FAMILY — PART II

In September, 1951, my father, Lewis Harold Parker, moved our family from a farm in Hamilton County to the Parker home place, a farm one mile south and one and one-half miles east of Central City. It was a bittersweet homecoming brought about by my grandfather Lewis Parker's death the previous May. Than I became the youngest member of the last (fifth) generation of Parkers to reside on the homestead.

My great-great-grandfather, Jason Parker, brought his family (the first settler to bring a family) to Merrick County in May, 1859.

Truman Franklin Parker, one of Jason's sons by his first wife, Fannie Conrad, was my great grandfather. He was born June 13, 1841, in Cattaraugus County, New York. It was to him that the homestead was deeded in 1871. He married Sarah Eatough (born in Blackburn, England, daughter of Richard Eatough and Margaret Parkinson Foulkes) on December 22, 1865 at Lone Tree. Of this marriage there were five children: Ellice (Mrs. W.Y.R. Gawne), Frank, Lewis (my grandfather), Della (Mrs. Ralph Cox), and Roy.

Lewis Parker was born December 26, 1869, on the homestead. He lived his entire life there and died at age eighty-one, the result of a run-away (team of horses) accident. He married Leona Coleman Berryman on February 6, 1895, in Central City. She was born in Hartford, Kentucky, the only child of Burr Berryman's second wife, Molly Dempsey. At age sixteen she came to Central City to live with her uncle, Bell Berryman. Of this marriage two children survived infancy: Mary Edgarda (Mrs. Robert O'Riley McCarty), and Lewis Harold (my father).

Harold was born August 21, 1904 on the homestead. He married Lois Evelyn DeLancey (born in Fullerton, Nebraska, the daughter of Clifford A. DeLancey and Eleanor Acker) on February 6, 1929. They had six children. Only two of us, my brother Truman and I (Diana) survived infancy.

After I graduated from high school in 1960 we moved into Central City. Gone were the days of cutting a Christmas tree from the river bottom, of showing Holsteins at the County Fair, District Black and White Show, and Ak-Sar-Ben, of irrigating, of long walks in the river bottom.

My mom went back to teaching country school to help me through college. My dad was elected County Assessor, then County Judge. In his "retirement" he became co-manager of Merrick Manor, the position he held at the time of his death.

My brother, Truman, works for Cessna in Wichita, Kansas. He is married to the former Ellen Miller. They have two children: Bruce, a Naval Lt. (j.g.) on a nuclear submarine and Jo Ellen, a high school senior.

I'm a medical technologist working at Lutheran Medical Center. My husband, whom I married September 3, 1966, is The Rev. Robert D. Bee, an Episcopal priest and chaplain at Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital. We have three daughters: Pamela, twelve; Jana, ten; and Alyssa, seven. We live in Omaha, Nebraska. *Submitted by Mrs. Robert (Diana Parker) Bee*

JASON PARKER

The son of Truman Parker, Jason was born in New York in 1812. In 1820 his family moved to Cataraugas County, New York, near the present day town of Portville. There they cleared 100 acres of land and began farming. Jason supplemented their income by piloting rafts at lumber down the Allegheny to Pittsburg, and often as far as Cincinnati.

By his first wife, Fanny, he had the following children: Mary, Francis, Truman, Cyrus, and Lois Viola. In 1852 a cholera epidemic swept the region and his wife and son, Francis M., died within five days of each other. He remarried Submitte Wakefield in 1854, and they had Addison, Dexter, and Nellie, the latter two dying in infancy.

In 1856, Jason sold his farm and moved his family to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he bought land and began farming on Silver Creek.

In January of 1860, he moved to Lone Tree, Nebraska, where he built a loghouse covered with cedar boughs. This served as a stage station and supply post for western emigrants. Later he and his son, Truman, converted this to the first frame house in the area, hauling the material from Columbus.

Jason was one of the earliest settlers in Merrick County and was present for many of the county's "firsts." The marriage of his daughter Lois Viola to Mr. John Kyes on December 25, 1864, was the first in the county. Later, in 1866, Parker and Kyes authorized the first legal execution in the county. On their first attempt, the rope snapped. Thinking this might be an omen, the two men decided to show mercy and let the culprit go free.

The offender, a horse thief caught red handed, took this opportunity to attempt to murder the two men. Gaining the upper hand, Parker and Kyes decided that the strict precepts of frontier justice should be observed, and proceeded with the hanging.

In 1862, Submitte became ill and returned to Bellevue, Nebraska, for treatment. She died on July 15, 1862. In the following years, Jason was actively involved in the organization of the county, and in 1873 he took a third wife, Rebecca Shannon Hammond, a widow with five grown children.

In the spring of 1876, at the age of sixty-four, he left for the Black Hills gold rush. Here he took a homestead in the Centennial Valley near Spearfish, South Dakota, and began raising cattle.

In 1880, he was joined by his granddaughter, Viola Pyles, who served as his housekeeper while holding a teaching position in a local school. Three years later her brother, Jay, arrived and enrolled in the teacher's college at Spearfish.

In the late 1880's, Jason's health began to fail. He sold his ranch and returned to Merrick County. He died March 26, 1895, of pneumonia and was buried in the Central City Cemetery. His wife survived to 1904. She is also buried in the Central City Cemetery.

Jason Parker was a true pioneer and, like many of his peers, he seemed to feel a sense of uneasiness once his surrounding environment lost its frontier ambience. Despite his wanderlust, he left behind many descendants to develop the land he colonized. *Submitted by William R. Marsh, M.D.*



Four Generations — 1894
Jason Parker, Mary Parker Pyles Marsh, Fred Marsh, Earl Marsh.

James and Sarah Pease



James McFaden Pease was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, November 6, 1854. As the second son of six children born to Johnathan and Sarah Pease, James moved with his family to Lee County, Iowa where the family lived for many years.

The future Mrs. Pease, Sarah Elizabeth Kile, was born near Columbus, Ohio, October 27, 1857. She was the daughter of John Kile and Nancy Whetsel Kile. In 1866, their family moved to a new home two and one-half miles north of Donnellson, Lee County, Iowa.

It was on Christmas Day, 1878, when James and Sarah were married by the Reverend Mr. Ferguson, at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Lee County, Iowa. James supported his family as a farmer until, on July 29, 1886, at the age of thirty-one, he was appointed Postmaster at Mount Hamill, Iowa. James continued in this position until the spring of 1893 when be took his family to make their home on a farm not far from Burke Cemetery, near Central City, Nebraska. They remained on the farm until 1910 when, at the age of fifty-six, James

moved the family in to Central City, where they lived at 2028 South 17th Avenue.

James became active in Central City public life and held the office of County Assessor of Merrick County for the remainder of his career.

During their lifetime together, James and Sarah were blessed with nine children: John Kile, Minnie Dora, Sarah Nancy, Lillie Flora, Joseph Andrew, Walter Everett, David Whetsel, and twins, a boy and girl who died shortly after birth.

Sarah Nancy married Hayward Newlon and spent her life in Kimball, Nebraska. Lillie Flora married Arthur Earl Wright and lived in Sidney, Nebraska.

James and Sarah continued their lives in Central City. James passed away March 5, 1942. Sarah lived on until February 27, 1951. Together they are buried at Burke Cemetery near Central City. *Submitted by Ricke D. Carlson (Maternal Great Grandson)*

AMBROSE COLLINS PEMBERTON

When Edna Pemberton of Palmer died in 1977, the surname of a Merrick County pioneer family died with her. Ambrose Collins Pemberton and his wife, Susanna, nee Parrish, were the first of six generations who have lived in Merrick County.

The Pembertons were married in 1839 in Kirtland, Ohio, the locality of the first Mormon Temple. The birthplaces in Susanna's family Bible indicate that the couple followed fortunes and misfortunes of the Mormon Church. The family settled in Michigan after the death of Joseph Smith and affiliated with the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

They came from Michigan in 1873 to a farm one mile west of the Prairie Creek Baptist Church site. They were accompanied by two married daughters and their husbands — Augusta, Mrs. Henry A. Bruno, and Sarah, Mrs. Lester Silas Bruno, their son Charles and his wife and several other children. One of their daughters, Jessie, later married Marshall Hastings who owned the Hastings Jewelry Store in Central City.

The Hastings' daughter Blanche, was a piano teacher in Central City. When her father died, she took over the management of the jewelry store.

It would appear that Ambrose regretted his decision not to follow Brigham Young. He sold his farm in 1882 and went to Utah. He died there in 1884. In recent years the family learned that he was baptized posthumously in the Mormon Temple at Logan in 1891.

Susanna did not go to Utah, but lived with her children until her death in 1904. She is buried in the Central City Cemetery.

Edna Pemberton's father, Hervey, was the grandson of Ambrose Pemberton and the son of Charles Pemberton. He carried mail out of Palmer for many years.

It is through Augusta, who died in Central City in 1925, that Pemberton descendants are still living in Merrick County. Her children by her marriage to Henry Bruno were: Kate, Mrs. Fred G. Boelts, Belle, Mrs. Thomas Fauquier, and Mary, Mrs. John F. Mueller. By her second husband, Thomas N. Gosnell, they were: Susanna, Mrs. Wayne Rouse, Thomas N. Gosnell, Jr., Frances, Mrs. H.B. Shelton, and Annette, Mrs. Oliver Reimel.

Descendants living in Merrick County today are: Third Generation — Mrs. Frances Shelton, Central City. Fourth Generation — Roland Boelts, Central City; Hubert F. Boelts, Archer; Elizabeth Fauquier Mason, Chapman; Nettie Fauquier, Chpaman; Ruth Rauquier Tyler, Central City. Fifth Generation — Hubert Frederick Boelts, Jr., Archer. Sixth Generation — Heidi Boelts, Archer; Robert Boelts, Archer; John Boelts, Archer.

Probably because Letter Day Saints were a definite minority group in Merrick County, Ambrose Pemberton's descendants did not follow him in his Mormonism. They are all members of more traditional churches. *Submitted by Helen Boelts*

PEMBERTON-HESSELGESSER

James Hervy Pemberton (1867-1943) and Nettie Gertrude Hesselgesser (1884-1961) were married in May, 1905 and remained as residents of Merrick County for the rest of their years.

Hervy Pemberton was descended from Lieutenant Joseph Kellogg who emigrated from Great Leighs, England, to Farmington, Connecticut, before 1651. Lt. Kellogg is credited with establishing the Kellogg family in America and instituting the first "Ferry" operation between Northampton and Hadley, Massachussetts.

Four generations later, on October 3, 1782, Mary Kellogg, daughter of Martin Kellogg and Phyllis Kent, was united in marriage to Thomas Pemberton in the Congregational Church of Suffield, Connecticut. Thomas Pemberton, born in London, England, in 1750, came to America an Officer under General John Burgoyne during the Revolution.

In 1808 the family with their ten children relocated in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, and thus began the gradual migration of descendants to the new lands in the west.

Ambrose Pemberton, grandson of Thomas and Mary, along with his wife, Suzannah Parrish, moved with his family to Merrick County in 1871. At the same time their son, Charles, his wife, Sarah, and their family, including four year old James Hervy, also arrived in the county. Charles Pemberton, a veteran of the Civil War, was taken prisoner and spent the last three months of his enlistment in the infamous "Libby" prison at Richmond, Virginia.

Charles and his father, Ambrose, both farmed in Prairie Creek Township for a number of years.

James Hervy Pemberton became one of the early rural mail carriers and was retired in 1932 after thirty years continuous service from the Palmer Post Office.

Nellie G. Hesselgesser was the daughter of John Lowery Hesselgesser and Clara Bell McCurdy, natives of Butler County, Pennsylvania, who arrived in Loup County in the early 1880's. After farming some years in that community they came to Merrick County and located in Palmer. Clara Bell was the daughter of Elisha Caldwell McCurdy and Sarah Bell Critchlow whose families had long been residents of Butler County. Mr. Hesselgesser was descended from William Hesselgesser, born Butler County, Pennsylvania, in 1778 and Jane Batty, born in 1784.

Hervy and Nellie Pemberton's three daughters were all born in Palmer. Edna, the oldest, remained with her mother following the death of her father in 1943, until the death of her mother in 1961. She remained in the family home until her own death in April, 1977. Edna, her parents and maternal grandparents are buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Palmer. Edith Lorene Pemberton Binder resides with her husband, John, in California and Laura Pemberton Richeson is located in Connecticut.

Laura and Donald Richeson have a family of two married children, Robert and Linda, and two grandsons. *Submitted by Laura Pemberton Richeson*

ORBRA PENNINGTON FAMILY

Orbra and Isabelle Lisco Pennington came to Merrick County in 1917 and settled in Silver Creek.

Orbra, son of James and Louceneth, was born in Hendricks County, Indiana, May 29, 1881 and died July 25, 1931 in Silver Creek. In 1891 the family came to Stanton County, Nebraska. In 1900 they moved to Platte County, Nebraska. Isabelle, daughter of Robert and Mary Jane Lisco, was born June 30, 1882 at Columbus, Nebraska and died March 12, 1955 in Silver Creek, Nebraska.

Orbra and Isabelle were married October 14, 1902 in Nebraska City, Nebraska. They lived in Platte County until moving to Silver Creek in 1917. Their children were:

Madeline, born January 18, 1904 in Columbus, Nebraska. She was married to Ned Powers July 26, 1922.

Lucille, born December 27, 1910 in Columbus, Nebraska. She was married to Harvey Leamons May 5, 1932.

Esther, born January 1, 1914 in Columbus, Nebraska. She was married to Joseph Weber December 26, 1935. She received her BA Degree from Wayne State College. She retired from teaching in 1976, having taught thirty-one years.

Frances, born January 23, 1916 in Columbus, Nebraska. She received her BA Degree from Wayne State College and her Masters Degree from the University of Colorado at Greeley. She retired in 1980, having taught forty-four years.

James, born January 5, 1923 in Silver Creek, Nebraska. He was married to Dorothy Green December 12, 1943. He received his BA Degree from Wayne State College and his Masters Degree from the University of Colorado at Greeley. Presently he is teaching in the Omaha Public Schools. He served in the Air Force during World War Two in the European Theatre.

Both our parents were very active and involved in the work of the Methodist Church. Our father passed away at the early age of fifty, leaving three of us still in school. Our mother, being an honor graduate of the Columbus High School and having taught school, was very aware of the need for an education. One of the highlights of her life was when her youngest child and only son, James, graduated from the Silver Creek High School. Thus completing the graduation of all five of her children from the same school. *Submitted by Frances Pennington and Esther Pennington Weber*

EDWARD & ERMA PETERS

Edward and Erma Peters were farmers of Merrick County near Fairview Church for over fifty years. He came to Merrick County with his parents Joseph and Elizabeth Peters in 1905 from Rogers, Nebraska, to settle five miles north and four west of Central City. Joseph came from Germany in 1885, met and married Elizabeth Vetter at Rock Island, Illinois, in 1887. They farmed at Rogers and in 1905 drove thirty head of cattle and some horses to the farm northwest of Central City. There were five boys and one girl in the family.

Ed farmed on 160 acres in a section north of his parent's place in 1924. Those were batching days for him. A good neighbor, Mrs. Willemen would bake pies, cakes, and bread and send over to Ed's house, as beans were his main staple.



Edward and Erma Peters — 1926

In 1925, Ed met Erma Winkelman and they were united in marriage September 28, 1926, at the Lutheran Church at Bazille Mills.

Two daughters were born to them: Maxine Peters Kuskie and Wilma Peters Myers.

The depression years came along. Everyone made do with what they had or did without. Days were very hot and dust storms many. When it blew from the south, there was a reddish dust from Kansas and Oklahoma.

Kerosene lamps were used in the house and lanterns to do the chores. Ice was delivered once a week. In 1940 REA came and made a big difference in everyone's life. Refrigerators and running water lightened the work of the housewife. The Farmer's Union Grocery Store was the main trading place in Central City of the country people. All of the family would go to town on Saturday night, the men

meeting on the street and talking about the animals and crops. The ladies would stroll by the shop windows looking at the clothing and shoes displayed. Much sewing was done as home so they'd get ideas how to change the dress patterns they owned. The children walked hand in hand with a nickel from their Dad for candy.

Social activities included PTA, where programs were put on by the children for parents. Box Socials were held where the young lady or the wife brought a box lunch to the school to be auctioned off. Whoever bid the highest won the privilege of eating supper with the lady. The money helped meet school expenses.

In 1943, Edward put down an irrigation well. Horses and mules had been a way of farming; now a Fordson tractor was purchased. Since more crops could be raised, Ed rented ground southeast of his place. In our community there were more girls than boys, so we helped our fathers in the fields, too. Our family thought of farming as "The Good Life."

Ed built a new home in 1954, and he and Erma celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in 1976, with many of their relatives and friends present. After a lingering illness, Ed passed away in June 1977. Erma moved to a rest home in Palmer, and celebrated her ninetieth birthday in November, 1980.

Ed and Erma's grandson, Jack Kuskie, has moved onto the home place and the farming goes on. *Submitted by Wilma Peters Myers*

WILLIE F. PETERS FAMILY

Willie F. Peters and his wife, Elvera Bader Peters, started farming in Merrick County two miles south of Worms, Nebraska.

Willie was born January 29, 1910, in Howard County, Nebraska, the son of Fred N. and Emma Luebbe Peters. He went to parochial school in Worms. To get there he drove horse and buggy four and one-half miles. Willie was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Worms, and was a member there for thirty-two years, until he moved east of Grand Island, Nebraska.

Elvera Bader was born June 29, 1908, to William and Marie Loeffelbein Bader, and lived two miles east of Worms. She attended District #28 School in Merrick County. She also drove horse and buggy to school, and when the horses weren't available she walked the two miles.

Willie and Elvera were married June 4, 1930, in Grand Island, Nebraska, and spent thirty years in the Worms community. All their children were born and raised two miles south of Worms, were members of Zion Lutheran Church and attended the Lutheran Parochial School in Worms.

Their children are:

Rosella, born July 1, 1931. She married Ed Hogle; they live in Wood River, Nebraska. Rosella's children are: Sally, Theresa and Timothy who are twins, Diedre, Nancy, and Sara Lee.

Ralph, born August 27, 1933. He married Sylvia Reher, they live in York, Nebraska. Their children are: Craig, Deborah, Rodney, and Cindy.

Roy, born May 26, 1935. He married Ruth Kurz; they live in Arvada, Colorado, but have bought a ranch in Wood Lake, Nebraska, and plan to move there. Their children are Rhonda and Randy.

Marvin born October 23, 1936. He married Marlene Kunze; they live in Norfolk, Nebraska. Their children are: Melissa and Michelle.

Billie, Jr. and Bonnie.

Billie, Jr., born April 23, 1938. He married Anita Heins; they live on the farm two miles south of Worms, where we started farming. Their children are: Cheryl, Michael, and Colleen.

Bonnie, born April 23, 1938. She married Don James; they live in Grand Island, Nebraska. Their children are: Diane, Denise, Danita and Donell.

Larry and Laverna.

Larry, born April 21, 1941. He married Donna Detweiler; they live in Grand Island, Nebraska. Their children are: David and Lisa.

Laverna, born April 21, 1941. She married Albert Moeller; they lived on a farm southwest of Grand Island, Nebraska. Their children are: Albert Wayne, Mark, Douglas, and Marcia. Laverna, Douglas, and Marcia died in a truck accident in July, 1976.



Mr. and Mrs. Willie F. Peters

Willie and Elvera have twenty-seven grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren.

They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary June 8, 1980, shortly after the June 3 tornado hit Grand Island, Nebraska.

In 1959, in Merrick County, R4, Box 20, they built a house east of Grand Island, Nebraska, where they now reside. When they moved to Grand Island, Willie started working for Loran H. Nielsen as a carpenter, where he is presently employed. *Submitted by Willie and Elvera Peters*

HANS PETERSON FAMILY

Hans Peterson and Emma Christina Sand were married February 11, 1888, and spent the remainder of their lives in Chapman.

Hans, aged fifteen, and his parents left Denmark for Dannebrog where his married sister lived. Hans secured a job with the Union Pacific Railroad at Chapman and was section foreman for many years, his highest salary being $60 a month. He purchased a home in town and, in 1906, bought 20 acres and a home south of town. He liked gardening and his purple clematis vine covering the front porch attracted attention every summer. Following an illness, he died September 23, 1915, at age forty-eight years.

Emma Sand, aged nineteen, left her family in Sweden and joined a married half-sister in Central City. She worked at the Patrick O'Hern home in Chapman. She was always devoted to her Bible and possessed an abiding faith in her Lord. She loved her family and home. She died March 5, 1953.



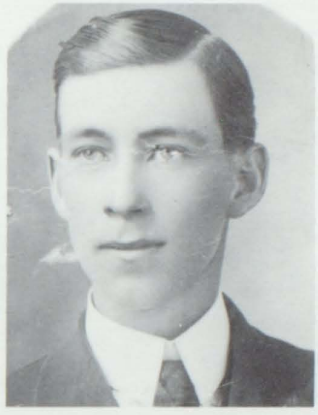
Hans and Emma Peterson, daughters Effie, Ellen and Margaret — 1911

Their children were Effie, Eugene, Ellen, a stillborn son, and Anna Margaret.

Effie worked many years at Chapman Post Office and Ury's Drugstore. She was a member of Chapman Methodist Church and Laura May Chapter, O.E.S. She married Lewis E. Wright on March 14, 1934. They lived in Chapman before moving to Nampa, Idaho. She died there March 26, 1974. Lewis died January 18, 1976.

Eugene worked for the railroad as section foreman, then became a farmer. He was active in the Chapman Masonic Lodge, Laura May Chapter, O.E.S., served as mayor of Chapman, and participated in the county agriculture program. He was devoted to his mother and sisters, maintaining the home, assisted by Effie and Ellen after his father's early death. Eugene died February 25, 1943.

Ellen was employed in Minneapolis, St. Louis and Ft. Dodge, Iowa then worked for sixteen years at Chapman Telephone Company. She was a member of Chapman Methodist Church and Laura May Chapter, O.E.S. She married Homer O. Pugh on November 13, 1941. Defense work took them to Georgia, Alabama, and Nebraska, moving to Englewood, Colorado in 1951. Homer died there December 24, 1955. Ellen lived there until 1973, moved to Idaho, and in 1974 to Tolovana Park, Oregon.



Eugene — 1907

Margaret was handicapped by polio at nine years of age, and ever after walked with crutches. After graduating from Chapman High School, she attended Nebraska Central College and graduated from University of Nebraska in 1931. She was a member of Laura May Chapter, O.E.S., also Chapman correspondent for both the Central City Nonpareil and the Republican for several years. In 1943, she moved to Portland, Oregon, worked three years at Jantzen, and married William Ross Emert on April 28, 1945. In 1949, they moved to the Oregon coast, owning a resort motel for eighteen years. Ross died June 21, 1966. On July 6, 1968, she married Keith R. Mecklem who died March 9, 1979. She has been newswriter for three communities for the Seaside Signal for over twenty-five years, and has engaged in church and community activities where ever she has resided. *Submitted by Margaret Mecklem*

HERBERT PETERSON

Herbert Peterson was born November 9, 1906 to C. Henry and Mary Voss Peterson on the farm of his parents in Douglas County at Ervington, Nebraska. Herbert attended school at the Dornacker school in Washington County near Omaha.

In 1916 Herbert's father bought a store at Washington, Nebraska where some one-hundred people lived. They moved there when Herbert was nine years old. When he was twelve years old, he began acting as janitor in the school which he continued doing until 1921 when he and his parents moved to a farm eight miles north and one mile east of Central City. Herbert was interested in farming so continued farming at home while his father cared for the stock or worked wherever he could get work. At the age of eighteen, he was in full charge of the farming while his father still tended the stock. This continued from 1921 until 1953 when he and his mother moved into Central City. His father died in 1944 and his mother died in 1957. Herbert still drove back and forth to the farms and helped farmers with their farm work when they needed extra help. He did this about eight years. Two years he helped his brother, Carl, with his farm work while his son was in service. Herb also acted as janitor at the Presbyterian Church for ten years and also as janitor at Phares and Torpin law office where he is still employed.

He mows lawns for neighbors and likes to play cards at the Multi-Purpose Center. Herbert has

traveled with the Senior Citizens to the east coast where he saw the Capitol, White House, and Mt. Vernon and Washington's tomb. He stood on the ground where Abe Lincoln stood while giving the Gettysburg Address. He saw Niagara and walked on the ice glaciers of Canada.

Herbert was one of ten children. Brother and sisters are: Alvena and Clara, both deceased; Dora lives at Elkhorn, Nebraska and has one son; Cecila and her husband died in a car accident in Greeley, Colorado; Carl married Marie Holtorf (Carl is not living); Katherine married Fritz Holtorf and lives six miles north of Central City; Louise married Wallace Harlow and lives in Central City; Lorraine married Darwin Williams and lives at Clarks where she and her husband have been involved in raising and showing black Angus cattle and Otto married Ina Newhoffel and lives in Central City. *Submitted by Herbert Peterson*

PHARES

Our roots in Merrick County began when E. Henry Phares began employment with the T.B. Hord Grain Company in 1913, following graduation from the Nebraska Law College. He married Gertrude Elizabeth Milligan at McCook in 1915 and the two sons, Charles H. and Malcolm E. received their education in the Central City schools.

After marriage to Irene McHargue, R.N., and admission to the Nebraska Bar, Charles served in World War II in U.S. Army Intelligence and joined Walter R. Raecke in practice of law in 1946. The present firm name is Phares, Torpin, Vanderheiden & Mesner. In addition, he has served as Merrick County Veterans' Service Officer since 1946 and as City Attorney for Central City since 1951.

The four children of Irene and Charles and their spouses are: Gwynn and Duane Gerlach, Storm Lake, Iowa; Doug and Betsy (Byers), Cedar Falls, Iowa; Robert and Laura (Maddox), Fremont, Nebraska; Kurt and Janis (Becker), Lincoln, Nebraska.

Malcolm graduated from the United States Naval Academy and following service in the Korean War as a Naval Officer, has worked for Boeing and Paccar and now lives at Bellevue, Washington. His two children are McGregor and Bruce of Seattle and Bellevue, Washington respectively. *Submitted by Charles Phares*

THE PFEIFFER FARM

Philip Pfeiffer brought his family from Germany in 1880 and settled first in Des Moines, Iowa. Later they moved to North Bend, Nebraska. In 1893, he bought a farm in Merrick County from G.E. Antrim. They moved onto the place the following year — 1894. It was located a mile east of Havens. The Antrims lived just west of the Pfeiffers, next to Havens.

Philip Pfeiffer family consisted of three boys and two girls. I think the oldest boy, Chris, was gone from home when they came to Merrick County. Mollie and Ernest married and moved to Washington state. Grandmother Pfeiffer died in 1907. Later that year my father, August, married Alma Martins. They lived with Grandpa Philip and my Aunt Carrie. Four girls and one boy were born to this union.

Grandpa Philip died in 1910 when I (Florence) was past two years old, and Margaret was not yet one year old. My sisters, Edna and LaVerna, were born in 1912 and 1914. Carl was born in 1918. Carrie continued to make her home with her brother August and his family. When we girls were small, we learned to talk German and called Carrie "Fante," the German word for Aunt. I recently learned that when the Antrim granddaughters were small, they heard us call Carrie "Fante" and thought that was her name, and called her that too. Aunt Carrie was like a second mother to us, reading stories to us (and I'm afraid she spoiled us) and taking over some of the chores we were supposed to do, so we could play.



August Pfeiffer farmhome — 1912

Margaret and I learned to talk English when we started to school at District #40 in 1915. Our parents had talked German until then. The teacher boarded with us the year we started to school, so our parents stopped talking German and talked the American language. I think Edna had the most mixed-up way of talking before she started to school, using German and American words in her conversation. All five of us attended District #40 school. LaVerna and Carl had not completed all the grades at District #40 when our father (August) passed away in 1928.

My mother leased the farm out and we moved to Genoa, then to Fullerton, Nebraska. Noah and Florence McCoig leased the Pfeiffer farm from 1931 to 1942. My brother, Carl, bought the farm from Mother in 1943 and owned it until 1958 when he sold it to Roman Sock, and moved with his family to California where he still lives. His sisters, Margaret Holtz, Edna DeBere, and LaVerna Gardner live in Washington state and Florence McCoig in Nebraska. Our Mother, Alma Pfeiffer Ernest, passed away in 1973. It was known as the Pfeiffer farm from 1893 until 1958 (sixty-five years). *Submitted by Florence Pfeiffer McCoig*

HARVEY & BARBARA PHELPS

Harvey L. Phelps, son of John A. Phelps and Marcy Cosner Phelps was born March 15, 1913. He graduated from Clarks High School in 1931. As a young man Harvey was well known in the Clarks area for his ability to play baseball. In his spare time he also enjoyed hunting, fishing, and trapping.

On June 5, 1938, Harvey and Barbara Schultz, daughter of Gustave and Catherine (Katie) Gorgen Schultz were married. Barbara graduated from Clarks High School in 1935, and taught school at District #62 for several years.

Two children were born to them: a son, Larry, and a daughter, Doris Anne. Larry Phelps married Arlis Henzler of Norfolk, Nebraska. Larry and Arlis Phelps have three daughters, Vickie, Becky, (twins) and Wendy. Doris Anne married Rex Cross of Arthur, Nebraska and they also have three daughters, Kim, Sheri, and Tricia.

Harvey and Barbara were active in the community. Harvey served as Secretary of the District #15 schoolboard for a number of years. Barbara has been an active member of the Pierce Chapel Methodist Church.

On October 29, 1972, after thirty-seven years of farming on a farm northwest of Clarks, Harvey died of a heart attack while hunting ducks along Prairie Creek. Barbara Phelps lives on the farm where they lived during their entire married life.

JOSEPH HARRISON PHELPS

Joseph Harrison Phelps was born in Pennsylvania on March 22, 1840, the son of Bela and Henrietta Siverly Phelps. When Joseph was three years old the family, with four children, moved to Henry County, Illinois.

He enlisted in Company C., Ninth Illinois Cavalry, at age twenty-one. After serving three years and two months, he was mustered out at Springfield, Illinois in November 1864. He returned to Geneseo, Illinois, to farm. Joseph was married to Susan Amelia Baker at Geneseo. He migrated to Lone Tree, Nebraska, in June, 1868. His wife followed him in the fall of that year. Three children were born to them: two boys, still-born in Illinois, and one daughter, Ida, at Lone Tree, Nebraska, on April 26, 1878. When Joseph came to Nebraska, he cut wood on Prairie Island and sold it to the Union Pacific Railroad for money to live on.

They homesteaded two miles north of Lone Tree or two miles west of the present Central City. They lived on the homestead and several other places in and around Central City until their deaths, she in 1914 and he in 1929. *Submitted by Esther Strasburg*

EDWARD T. POHL FAMILY

Edward Pohl was born on March 10th, 1905, on a farm in Butler County near Bruno, Nebraska. He received his schooling in the Butler County Schools and in March, 1926, at the age of twenty-one years, he purchased a farm located three miles north and three miles west of Chapman in Merrick County. The farm that he purchased was known as the Stappleman Farm. Ed resided and farmed at this location until he passed away on June 9th, 1971.

Each spring during the first four years that Ed lived on this farm in Merrick County, he would drive his team of mules to Bruno and help the family put in the spring crops. The seventy-five mile trip to his parent's farm would take him two days travel time.

In 1929, Ed purchased a Model "L" Case tractor, and in 1930 a fifteen-foot Cass combine. The combine was one of the first combines purchased in Merrick County. For many years, Ed moved throughout the county, harvesting grain for farmers.



Edward and Bridget Pohl

On June 13th, 1933, Ed and Bridget Hinesh were united in marriage at St. Michaels Church in Central City. Bridget was born on May 14th, 1912, near Abie, Nebraska. She received her elementary schooling in the Grand Island Public School system and graduated from Doniphan High School.

Ed and Bridget had two children: James, born October 19th, 1935, and Eugene, September 12th, 1938. Both boys attended District #28 grade school, and later attended Chapman High School. Jim graduated in 1953 and Eugene in 1956.

After graduating from Chapman High School, Jim attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Jim and Carol Pauls of Ithaca, Nebraska were united in marriage. They have one son, Dean. At the time of this writing, Jim is employed by the Bank of Phoenix in Phoenix, Arizona. His wife, Carol, is employed by the U.S. Government.

After graduating from Chapman High School, Eugene attended the Commercial Extension Business College in Omaha, and for ten years worked for the Union Pacific Railroad as a telegrapher-clerk. In 1959, Eugene and Sonja Vipperman were united in marriage in Grand Island. Sonja was born and raised in the Chapman community and graduated from the Chapman Public Schools in 1957.

Eugene and Sonja had four children: Kim born on November 19, 1960, Jodi, December 28, 1963, Lisa,

April 17, 1967, and David, February 27, 1969.

While employed with the Union Pacific Railroad, Eugene and Sonja lived in Central City. For several years, Sonja was the secretary for the Central City Chamber of Commerce. In 1967, the Eugene Pohl family moved to Omaha. At the time of this writing, they live in Elkhorn, Nebraska. Eugene is employed by the Nebraska State Patrol, and Sonja is employed by the Bank of Elkhorn. *Submitted by Mrs. Bridget Pohl*

ASA A. POLLARD

Asa A. Pollard was born in Clarks, July 23, 1913, to William and Maude Pollard. He received his education in the Clarks Public School, graduating in 1931. Asa excelled in sports and enjoyed displaying a medal to his sons that he had won at the state for the 440 — a distance he had never run before. He attended college for one year. Returning to Clarks, he became assistant postmaster and substitute mail carrier. The latter he held until 1973. March, 1938, Asa bought the Pollard Oil from his father, Bill, and Uncle Leonard.

November 17, 1939, Asa was united in marriage to Roma Ruff in the St. Peters Church. Roma worked as bookkeeper for Pollard Oil until Asa's retirement. Asa and Roma were blessed with four sons.

Asa added a steel quonset to the Pollard Oil. It served as storage, lube jobs and tire repair. March, 1946, Asa purchased the Pollard Station on Hiway 30. Six modern motel units were built to the south and opened for business May, 1946, with Roma as manager.

Ten acres were also acquired north of the Pollard home. It was here that the boys received their education on milking, choring, etc.

Asa had a yen for flying, and in 1947, he and J.R. Brown purchased a Piper Cub. He enjoyed flying for several years, but because of lack of time he had to give up this hobby.

In 1958, Asa, J.R. Brown and Frank Schuldt erected a large grain storage just south of the station now owned by Ira Reisener. Another grain storage was built north of the station, later becoming part of Pollard Oil.

Always a progressive person, Asa decided in 1962 to add propane. Thus, Pollard Oil and Propane. Also a large storage tank at Fullerton was added. Asa soon realized he needed more room for display, so the old station was torn down and replaced with a new cement block building.

In 1965, Asa purchased 240 acres north of town from J.R. Brown.

In 1973, due to failing health Asa sold his business to his two eldest sons, Asa Lloyd and Rod.

Asa died December 14, 1974, leaving behind a host of friends that remember him for his smile, cheerfulness and helping hand. A hand that helped many young men get a start by showing his faith in them. He will not be forgotten! He was a lifelong member of St. Peters Church.



Asa A. Pollard and Sons

Asa's wife, Roma, and three sons and families reside in Clarks. Asa Lloyd and wife Mary have three children, Cathy, Kelly and Scott. Rod and wife Loretta had three children, Brian, Andy and Brenda. Little Andy died July 16, 1980. Randy and wife Connie have three children, Niki, Kyle and Joni. Randy lives in town and farms the Pollard farm. Jerry and wife, Marti, have two children, Michael and Kasia, and reside in Vermillion, South Dakota. Jerry is in his last year of Law at the University. *Submitted by Mrs. Asa Pollard*

RANDY POLLARD FAMILY

Randy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Asa A. Pollard of Clarks. He was a graduate of Clarks High School and served in the United States Air Force.

Connie is a native of Polk County, graduated from Stromsburg High School, and attended Joseph's Beauty College. Her mother, who was formerly Ruth Dittmer, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Dittmer of Clarks.

Randy and Connie were married in October 1971, in Clarks. Randy is engaged in farming in the Clarks community. Connie owns and operates her own beauty shop (Connie's Beauty Salon) which she opened in April 1975.

The shop, which is located at their residence in Clarks, is open Tuesday through Saturday. Connie specializes in men, women and children's hairstyling, as well as permanents and hair coloring.

Randy and Connie are the parents of three children: Niki, seven years, who was born in Germany on July 19, 1973; Kyle, four years, who was born at Osceola on March 10, 1977; and Joni, one year, who was born at Osceola on November 8, 1979. *Submitted by Connie Pollard*

BEN & CLAUDIA POLZKILL

Ben (Bernard W.) Polzkill was born in Central City on April 24, 1950, but his family lived in Fullerton, Hubbel, Brady, Gothenburg, and Cedar Rapids before settling in Central City in 1956. His mother, Donna Polzkill, (maiden name, Horn) still lives in Central City. His father, Bernard L. Polzkill, died in 1980. Ben's grandmother, Lillian Horn, is living in Central City. Her husband, Homer Horn, died in 1956. Ben's grandfather, Bernard W. Polzkill, died in 1942, and his grandmother, Leota, (Mrs. Alfred Eckels) died in 1976. Ben's brother, Robert, lives in Pacific Grove, California. His sisters, Karan Dunn and Rhonda Blue, live in Lincoln, and his sister, Diana Erickson, lives north of Central City.

My maiden name was Claudia McHargue. I was born in Hord Memorial Hospital in Central City on November 29, 1949, to Kenneth and Virginia McHargue (maiden name, Stromberg). My father now lives south of Central City, and my grandparents, Hiram and Eula McHargue, live in Central City. My mother and four brothers, Alan, Joe, Pete (LeRoy), and Fred (Kenneth) live in Lincoln. My mother's parents, Claude and Frances Stromberg, live in Clarks, Nebraska.

While growing up I lived on three different farms, all east of Central City and close to Highway 30. I attended Hord Ranch School, District #20, through eighth grade. My last year of grade school, 1964, was the last year, too, for that old one-room schoolhouse. It was closed, and then my younger brothers went to school in town. While in grade school, I took piano lessons from Mrs. Jack Webster for several years. The piano is still one of my favorite pastimes. Ben and I graduated from Central City High School in 1968. Our class was the last one to attend the old high school building on Fifteenth Avenue as seniors. The next school year, the new high school by South Park was opened.

In 1968, I moved to Denver, Colorado, to attend business school. I graduated in May, 1969, and on July 19, Ben and I were married in Central City. At that time I was employed as a bookkeeper for a medical clinic in Denver. I resigned shortly before the birth of our first son, Matthew, on October 14, 1970. Our second son, Cliff, was born on June 1, 1972, and our third son, Tyson, was born on February 28, 1976. Ben's employment had been in credit and collection, banking, and insurance until we left Denver in 1978. We lived in Goodland, Kansas, for one year, and then moved to Columbus, Nebraska, in January, 1979, where Ben was director of marketing for Lindsay Credit Corporation. In January 1981 we moved back to Denver, where Ben is now employed by Steiner Financial Corporation. Ben travels frequently with his employment, and at times we are able to travel with him. We have recently been to Canada and Mexico. *Submitted by Claudia Polzkill*



Ben and Claudia Polzkill family — 1979

PORTER-BETTS

My paternal grandparents, Laura Jane Porter (born March 16, 1855, died November 23, 1920) and Theodore Darling (his mother's maiden name) Betts (born in July, 1857, died April 12, 1922) began their married life in their native Ohio. Their first born, a girl, died in infancy. Their only other child, Klar Amos, was born near Bryan, Ohio, August 19, 1878 and while he was a small child they moved to Merrick County and rented a farm complete with equipment. After renting for several years they purchased the farm in Mead Township where the Jack Neels now live. It was here that they spent most of their years and built a new house for themselves. I had joined them in 1917 after my mother remarried and moved to Nance County.

To increase their real estate holdings they sold the Mead Township farm and invested in several other pieces of land. We then moved into the northeast corner of Lone Tree Township. A short time later Grandma Betts died and in 1922 Grandpa sold once more and we moved to the quarter section east of Clarks which continued to farm for over fifty years. My son, Dwain (T.D.) still lives there in the house where he was born.

Grandpa died shortly after we moved so while still a teenager I was abruptly thrust onto my own. My mother and Grandad (Jay) provided such counsel and guidance as they could. They were quite involved in their own family life as Jay had six children, some older, some younger than myself.

My life had begun November 21, 1905 on the farm one half mile west of Bureau Cemetery on the south side of the road where I joined a brother, Roy L., older by eighteen months.

My parents, Klar A. and Ethel (Tunks) Betts had both attended Scudder School #33, as did my brother and I. My father attended Clarks High School and then Midland College. My mother's family had moved to Central City so she went to high school there and then enrolled at the Friends College. Later she attended the Normal School in Kearney. (Grandpa Betts also recognized the values of advanced training and attended the Grand Island Business School one winter).

My parents married June 18, 1902 and combined farming and teaching school for a time. My father became a livestock breeder and feeder but our lives were drastically changed August 13, 1914 when a bolt of lightning caused his untimely death. We moved into Clarks to live until October 31, 1917 when my mother married Jay Richards and went to

live with him and his family. Later they returned to Merrick County to the house now occupied by the Dan Grafe family. There they lived together for over forty years until February 15, 1956 when Jay died shortly before his ninetieth birthday. Mother remained a widow until her death, January 15, 1968, at the age of eighty-eight. Both are buried beside their first mates in Bureau Cemetery, now called Pierce Chapel. *Submitted by Frank Klar Betts*

JAMES PORTER FAMILY

James Walker Porter, known as Walt, was the son of Anzie and Margaret Porter. In 1872, the family moved to Merrick County. Walt was a resident of Central City for forty-three years.

Walt married Ida Beal in Ohio in 1880. Having never been west of Ohio, she was always homesick, and asked to be buried in Ohio. She passed away in 1920. The couple had two sons and two daughters. Laurence died in infancy. Owen resided in Central City and Kearney. Margaret, always known as Dot, resided in Central City until 1921, then moved to Fairbury. Mae resided in Central City and Kearney.

Walt suffered from pneumonia and died on the fourth day of his illness in 1921. Doctors Sachs and Henry of Omaha were summoned, but the throat operation to relieve his difficulty in breathing could not save his life.

Walt was engaged for seven years in the dray and transfer business, the largest line of it's type in the history of Central City. He was elected as sheriff in 1891 and re-elected in 1893. At that time Merrick County was not so peaceful as it is today. Old settlers recalled how Walt, single-handed, went into a cornfield and took two armed prisoners. They had blown the Post Office safe, robbed it, and locked the night watchman in a car on the Union Pacific tracks.

Walt was also quite a stockman, feeding a large herd of white-face cattle west of town. He also raised Dalmation dogs. Walt was an exceptional hunter and fisherman. Dot idolized her father, was at his size every available opportunity, and also became a marksman and fisherman. I remember going to the carnivals with Mother and watching her shoot the moving targets.

All four children were born in Central City. Owen married Grace Powers. After her death, he married Cora Fogland. Mae married Fritz Paul, conductor of the Central City Band. Later she married Emil Fogland. Dot married Ralph Robinson. They were members of the dance club and any organization Dot wanted to.

In late years Walt did not engage in a business. He had acquired considerable property, both residential and business, which kept him occupied. He still took an active and deep interest in political campaigns and public movements.

His sudden death came as a shock to the community. Many did not know he was ill. I am the granddaughter of Walt and Mrs. Porter. *Submitted by Jean Roush*

WILLIAM A. PORTER FAMILY

William Anzie Porter, a Civil War veteran and a pioneer homesteader in Merrick County, was born in 1826, in North Carolina. At an early age, he moved with his parents to Indiana. There he met and married Margaret Nicholson in 1848. Margaret's mother had passed away in Nova Scotia while making the voyage to America. Margaret raised her younger brothers and sisters.

In 1871, the family moved from Indiana to Merrick County. They homesteaded near Archer. In 1879, they moved to Central City and resided there the rest of their lives.

I've heard by the grapevine that great-grandfather Porter wasn't too ambitious. Great grandmother must have had all the "push" and passed it on to all the children as they were all very ambitious and did very well.

The couple had eight children, all born in Indiana. The youngest, a daughter, died at age three, just before they left Indiana. The other children were: John, Sarah, James Walker, Minerve, Flora, Margaret and Mary (Metta).

John was born in 1850, married Virginia (Jenny) Draper in Central City in 1878, and are the only ones who didn't remain in Central City. They left shortly for Carthage, Missouri.

Sarah was born in 1852, married Jim Ratcliff in 1870, and were the owners of the Ratcliff Hotel. They had two children, Ted and Sarah. In 1920, Mrs. Ratcliff was hit and killed by a train while walking home from her parents' home.

James Walker, known as Walt, was born 1854.

Minerve was born in 1857, married Joe LeMaster in 1875, and died in 1921. Their children were Maude and Roy.

Flora (Flo) never married. She was born in 1860 and died in 1940.

Margaret was born in 1862 and married L.G. Comstock. They had two children: Donald died in 1973. Helen married Alfred Koch. She is still living in Cozad, Nebraska.

Mary Wilmetta, known always as Metta, was born in 1866. She never married and diedin 1941.

Metta, Flo, and Margaret and her two children lived with their parents in Central City. The home is still there. Their mother died in 1905. They took care of their father until his passing in 1914.

In 1893, Flo and Margaret went into the millinery business. It was located in the middle of the Tooley Drug block, and known as "The Porter Sisters' Hat Shop." They made all of the hats they sold. In 1931, they closed the business due to Flo's ill health. Flo was an invalid until her death in 1940. Margaret and Metta stayed on in the family home. Metta passed away in 1941.

Metta was a member of the first graduating class of Central City. Edwin M. Burr wrote, "I became deeply indebted to her, because of her deeply unfailing memory," during the writing and publication of the Nonpareil's high school alumni biographical series "The Little Red School House." Metta taught school and Sunday School in Central City most of her life. She retired to assist in taking care of Flo and passed away a year after Flo.

I am the great-granddaughter of William and Margaret Porter. *Submitted by Jean Roush*

NEWTON POTEE FAMILY

The call of the West lured many young settlers including my father, Newton Potee, who left Summerford, Ohio in 1878. His first stop was Bradshaw, Nebraska, where he filed a Timberclaim near what is now Hordville; however, he relinquished this claim and homesteaded 160 acres where he built a sod house.

Anna Roberts, my mother, lived in Salem, Iowa, but decided to 'go west', stopping in York, Nebraska, where she was a dressmaker and a milliner. Here Newton and Anna became acquainted and were married November 2, 1882, at 8:00 A.M. and left immediately in a lumber wagon for Newton's sod home where they lived until 1890. A son, Harvey, was born in 1888. In 1890 the family moved to Central City where my father owned a grocery store, the second building east of the Stitzer Drug Store, later known as the Tooley Drug. The Potee home was a block north and a block west of the Union Pacific Depot.

Their neighbors were Rudolf Kombrinks (Furniture Store); S.B. Starretts (Bank); Harris family; J.W. Breckon — Minnie, Jesse (Hensley), Ben and Richard; Father DelFoss and the Sam Briggs family.



William and Anna Moore

Prominent businessmen were J.W. Machamer, Dry Goods; Berryman Brothers, Dry Goods; Charles Stitzer, Drug Store with Roller Tooley, Sr. as pharmacist.

At this time my father had a produce business with Faunce Metcalf as helper. They sold eggs, butter, and dressed chickens, packed them in ice in wooden tubs and shipped them to Laramie, Wyoming.

I, Anna, was born in 1895 with Dr. E.A. Benton as physician. In the years 1901-1905 our family lived in Hamilton County, returning to Central City in October 1905 where we lived on the former William Miller ninety acre farm just north of Central City (the present Presley French home).

At this time, we joined the First Methodist Church on D Street. The church had been built about 1898 by contractor Robert Keeney and D.K. Tyndal was the minister. Here the Potee family were faithful devoted members during their entire life.

Harvey graduated from Nebraska Central College in 1908. I graduated from Central City High School in 1915, the first graduating class from the then new high school. There were twenty graduates with A. Crago as superintendent. I continued my education at Kearney State Teachers College and taught one term at District #13. In 1916 I was married to William H. Moore. We lived a year and a half on the W.C. Shelton farm, three miles northwest of Central City. Here our daughter, Phyllis, was born. In March 1918, we moved to a farm near Marquette where we lived for twenty-eight years.

During this time Newton and Anna lived in Central City until his death in 1932 and hers in 1936.

In 1946, Will and I moved back to Central City where we built our own home on the former Ella Doughman property. Here we lived for twelve years before moving to Boulder, Colorado, to be near our daughter and her husband, Elmer and Phyllis Muhle. *Submitted by Mrs. Anna H. Moore (William H.)*

PATRICK EDWIN POWELL

Patrick Edwin Powell was born February 24, 1864, at Liberty, Indiana, the son of John and Mary O'Malley Powell. The family moved to Vincennes, Indiana, where Ed grew to manhood. He came to Central City in early 1900's where he farmed west of Central City. He later moved to a farm west of Chapman.

Mary Ann Heaton was the daughter of Henry Heaton and Ann Conway Heaton, and was born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada on May 20, 1870. Before her marriage, Mary Ann had taught school for sixteen years in Merrick, Nance, and Hamilton Counties. The last school in which she taught was District #29, west of Chapman, which incidently was the school where her daughter Mary Powell began her teaching career in 1932. One of the board members to sign Mary Powell's contract had been a pupil of Mary Ann Heaton.

Ed and Mary Ann had three children. Henry, born December 24, 1908, farmed near Fullerton, and died May 12, 1966. John was born July 12, 1912, and is semi-retired and now living in Grand Island. Mary, born March 10, 1911, married Sylvester Placke of St. Libory, at St. Michael's Church in Central City on June 8, 1937. They lived on the family farm near St. Libory, later moving to their present home in Grand Island.

Mary Powell Placke taught at Blessed Sacrament School in Grand Island for fifteen years before retiring. She married Sylvester Placke and they have three children. Kathleen, born August 22, 1938, married Robert Whetstone, live in St. Paul, Minnesota, and have five children. Patricia, born December 11, 1943, married Gary Vejvoda, live in Grand Island, Nebraska, and have four children. Robert, born September 1, 1948, married Susan Bothe, live in Kearney, Nebraska, and have two children.

Patrick Edwin Powell died at Fullerton, November 20, 1941, and is buried at Central City. Mary

Ann died September 24, 1954, and she is also buried at Central City. *Submitted from manuscripts by Mary Powell Placke*

JOHN ALFRED (ALLIE) POWER

Allie was born October 12, 1885, the second of twelve children of John Alfred and Mary Ellen Brown. Allie married Rose Trainor September 26, 1911, at St. Michaels Church in Central City, Nebraska. Allie and Rose had twelve children, all born at a farm home east of Chapman, Nebraska; Vincent was born Janaury 12, 1913; Richard on November 6, 1914; Dolores on December 4, 1916; Dorothy on August 18, 1918; Charlotte on July 29, 1920; Robert on November 3, 1921; Margaret on December 6, 1923; James on October 11, 1925; Owen on January 10, 1927; Agnes on August 14, 1929; Theresa on December 27, 1930; and Phyllis on June 15, 1933.

The family engaged in farming; finally acquiring 400 acres. The older children shared in the work and the worrisome realities of growing up during a depression, drought, and the grasshopper plague. Dad bought a steam engine and separator and did custom threshing. Dolores and I helped the neighbor ladies cook and serve to the threshing crew. We always had a large dairy herd that we milked by hand, along with various other livestock.

We seldom got far from home and were laughingly naive about the world around us. I remember when Uncle George took us to Chapman and bought ice cream cones, my sister asked if she should eat the "cardboard"! Another, upon seeing the piles of coal along the railroad tracks, asked if we were in the Black Hills.

Our education was initiated in the District #39 one-room schoolhouse. Our recreation was centered around organized community activities. Several of us played on the Chapman softball teams and Vincent and Richard played Legion baseball managed by Dad and Bill Harris. We also rode in Merrick County trail rides, performed in drill teams and square dances on horseback at county fairs. We enjoyed the parish hall dances managed by Dad and Jack Roubal. Several of us met our spouses at these dances.

We grew to young adulthood on the farm except James who died in infancy in 1928. Richard was killed in World War II in 1944.

Our mother, Rose, was a very gentle, patient lady, always there and quick to respond when our spirits were down or when feelings were hurt. She gave much of herself and asked for little in return. She was an excellent mother and homemaker. On cold winter evenings she would delight us by playing the piano. These evenings usually wound up with Dad getting out the violin. They would play the favorite songs of their generation.

Mother died November 3, 1952, and Dad died March 3, 1959. Although they suffered the heartache of the deaths of two children, James and Richard, three have died since. Theresa died in 1972; Vincent in 1974; and Charlotte in 1978.

Our once large family now consists of seven living children. Thirty-seven grandchildren were born, and thirty-one are now living. *Submitted by Dorothy Power Armatys*

JOHN ALFRED POWER

John Alfred Power was born in County Cork, Ireland in 1852, to William Power and Margaret Schnenne. He and two brothers, Dennis and William, came to the United States, and became citizens in 1880.

John Alfred married Mary Ellen Brown of Farmington, Iowa, the seventh of eleven children. She was born August 29, 1860. They were married in St. Michaels Catholic Church in Central City, Nebraska, on July 4th, 1882.



John Alfred Powers family

Twelve children were born to this union. Mary Ellen was previously married to William Fish and had one child, George, born August 28, 1878. He was raised with his twelve half brothers and sisters, and went by the Power name.

John Alfred and Mary settled on a farm east of Chapman, Nebraska, which was homesteaded by his brother, William. There, their twelve children were born during the years between 1883 and 1902. They were William, John Alfred (Allie), Margaret, Edward, Arthur, Mildred, Robert, Daniel, Francis, Mary, Juanita and Raymond.

Margaret entered the Order of Sisters of St. Francis in 1913. She graduated from nursing school, and spent many years in Terre Haute, and Mishawauka, Indiana, serving in that capacity. She was most compassionate to the ill and needy.

Margaret took her final vows in 1922, and the name Sister Maurilla.

Sister celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1963 in Mishawauka. Her brother Robert of California attended the celebration, and drove Sister back to Omaha, Nebraska, where her sisters Mildred and Juanita surprised her with a family reunion in honor of her fiftieth jubilee.

After her retirement she spent the remainder of her life at Sisters of St. Francis of the Perpetual Adoration in Mishawauka.

John and Mary stayed on the farm until Mary Ellen's health failed. They moved to Omaha, Nebraska, and after several years there, they went on to California, where they lived until returning to the farm east of Chapman, Nebraska. Mary Ellen died on this farm November 21, 1923. Daniel and his wife, Clara, took over the farm and John Alfred moved to a home owned by his son, Allie. He later married Sarah Jane Abby in Pestigo, Wisconsin, and started their life together in the same home he occupied as a widower.

In 1934 they purchased the Jacob Roubal home in Chapman, where they lived until his death on February 13, 1943. Sarah then came to live with Allie and Rose Nellie Trainor Power who were my parents. Sarah suffered a stroke and was paralyzed. She died on November 25, 1951, at the age of eighty-four years.

At the time of John's death, he had thirty-five grandchildren.

Mildred, Daniel and Mary are the only surviving children. Mildred and Daniel live in Omaha, Mary lives in California. *Respectfully Submitted by Dorothy Eileen Power Armatys*

WILLIAM & LOUISE PROCHASKA



William and Louise Prochaska



John Alfred (Allie) Powers Family

At age eleven, William Prochaska left his native Czechoslovakia for America, with his younger brother, Julius, parents, James and Anna, and Anna's parents, William and Magdaline Aksamit Polansky. They sailed third class storage, arriving in New York harbor in 1884, Mother Anna stepping on American soil, carrying a billowing feather tick on her back, one of the family's few possessions. Grandmother Magdaline had died enroute. The ship's crew wanted to bury her at sea. The family pleaded with the captain. She was brought ashore and buried in an unmarked grave in Potter's Field. Magdaline was of French ancestry, daughter of a blacksmith with whom she often helped shoe horses for King Louis XIV of France.

Continuing on to Crete, the Prochaska family joined another Aksamit family. The grandad, William Polansky, had gone to northern Kansas to homestead. While recuperating in a hospital with a broken leg, an Indian uprising had burned out and killed many settlers. Thus he escaped, returning to his family near Crete where he became a well digger. Many times young William walked the streets of Crete with his lame grandad while ped-

dling hot weiners. Grandad Polansky was later killed by lightning while digging a well.

Within three years the family moved from Crete to Archer where they bought eighty acres (Roger Hanke farm). This was an improved farm with house, barn and chicken house — all sod! The journey had taken three days with team and wagon to which a cow was tied. The parents rode, William and Julius trudged behind, barefooted, followed by the family dog. For a long distance the tall spire of the German Evangical Church was their landmark. How unusual that these Czech immigrants would plant themselves in a German community. But then Father James had worked in the German coal mines where they had all learned the language. By necessity they were to become trilingual.

The blizzard of 1888 struck when William was thirteen. A neighbor (James Bahensky) came for the school children with team and wagon. They were guided into the Bahensky barnyard by a ringing cowbell. All remained overnite and kept warm by burning corn.

Self trained, William became an excellent cornetist, playing seventeen years in the Archer Band under Ed Sullivan, also in the Central City Band which on one occasion he led for a Father Del Foss at Ak-Sar-Ben, receiving Honorable Mention.

The former Abe Colborn farm in Gage Valley became William's last farm home where after marriage to Louise Moravec in 1910, they lived until retirement. The Colborn barn had burned so the young couple combined their honeymoon and a lumber-buying trip to Omaha via train.

Pathos and humor colored pioneer life. In 1912 "Buffalo Bill" Cody's Wild West Show played in Grand Island. There Cody, shooting at glass balls tossed by an Indian, fragmented one, a sliver of which came done, cutting a gash below William's eye, causing profuse bleeding. We always claimed the honor that our Dad had been wounded by Buffalo Bill! *Submitted by Mildred Prochaska Stone*

DAVID PRESSLER FAMILY

David and Caroline Lawson Pressler came to Merrick County in 1896 from Indiana. They came by train bringing their five children, three girls and two boys, Mattie, Edythe, Nellie, William and James. They were met in Clarks, Nebraska by Caroline's brother Will Lawson. It was Will who influenced the David Pressler family to come and farm in Merrick County. They bought their farm home in 1902. It was located three and three fourths miles north of the Fairview Methodist Church. The children all attended District #51 in Merrick County.

They did their grocery and supply buying at the village of Sunrise just two miles north and one half mile east. They attended the Fairview Methodist Church.

They sold their farm home in 1905 and moved to Kansas. Before leaving Merrick County, Mattie married Charles Shively, Edythe married Mathew Hanna and Nellie married Robert Christy.

In 1914 Will Pressler came back to Nebraska and lived in Nance County. He brought his wife Goldie Culbertson and daughter Opal with him. In a few years he moved back in Merrick County and lived here until 1940. Four children were born in Merrick County, Ruby, Lucile, Roy and William (Bill). The three girls graduated from the Central City High School.

In 1940 they bought a ranch near Cairo, Nebraska. They lived on the ranch until they retired and moved into Grand Island.

David, Caroline, James and Goldie Pressler are buried in the Pierce Chapel Cemetery. *Submitted by Lucile Ferris*



David Pressler Family

WILLIAM & MARY PYLES

William Hall Pyles was born in Ohio about 1835 and moved with his family to Council Bluffs, Iowa, about 1854. There he met Mary Ladoska Parker. Born April 17, 1838, near Portville, New York, she was the eldest child of Jason and Fanny Parker. In 1856, that family also moved to the Council Bluffs area, settling on Silver Creek.

William and Mary were married on February 18, 1858, in her father's home on Silver Creek. They were the parents of three children: May (1859-1928), Viola (1863-1939) and Jay (1867-1947).

Mr. Pyles taught school and farmed until 1861, when he joined the Colorado gold rush. On the way to Denver, Colorado, they stopped at Jason Parker's ranch at Lone Tree, Nebraska in late May and arrived in the mining camps of Denver in mid June. There, they rented a building and started a boarding facility called the Jefferson House. They stayed only a year and then returned to Wood River, Nebraska, where William opened a general store for travelers.

After a year they returned to Denver and started a grocery, and were quite prosperous until William contracted smallpox. Although he lived, he suffered a severe stroke in the process, leaving him with weakness in the right arm and leg. This was followed immediately by a fire that destroyed all of Denver. Shortly after their second child, Viola, was born May 16, 1863, they decided to return to Lone Tree, Nebraska, to recuperate.



William and Mary Parker Pyles

In the spring of 1864, they followed the Montana gold rush. It took three months to reach Summit City, Montana, where again they opened a boarding house. After six months they moved eight miles down Alder Gulch to Virginia City and a larger building, again calling it the Jefferson House. Here it was not uncommon to furnish over 400 meals on a Sunday.

This was a considerable strain on William's health and in March, 1865, they began the trip home to Lone Tree, via the Missouri River. When only 150 miles down-river, they were ambushed by Indians. Leaving everything behind except a gun and their gold, the family of four walked back to Bozeman. Eventually, in early summer, they made their way back to Lone Tree. They brought with them $1200 in gold, a sizeable profit for that day.

They invested their money in cattle and land, and took up residence near Parker Island. William's health, however, continued to fail and he died October 10, 1867. Three weeks later their son, Jay, was born November 5, 1867.

In 1869, Mrs. Pyles married William Marsh, by whom she had five children. She died in 1920. Mr. Pyles' very able mind complimented Mary Parker's strong will and determination. Together they faced challenges that would have defeated most couples. Although disease cut his life short, his descendants claimed achievements and honors of which he would have been justly proud. *Submitted by William R. Marsh, M.D.*

JAY & MAUDE PYLES

Jay Franklin Pyles was the son of William Hall and Mary Parker Pyles. He was born in 1867 in Lone Tree, Nebraska. His father, William, died several weeks before his birth. Jay, named after his grandfather Jason Parker, spent his childhood years with his mother, step-father, and their children. Jay often spoke of his half-brother Fred Marsh as such a "good man."

Jay was venturesome and left home at seventeen to live with his grandfather, Jason Parker, in Centennial Valley, north of the Black Hills. At eighteen, he entered Spearfish Normal School. Jay wrote later of this being a very happy period of his life. He was a member of the first graduating class.

After leaving the normal, Jay taught in rural schools and in Minnesela, S.D. He was known as an excellent teacher. His success as an educator and administrator led to his appointment as Butte County superintendant of schools. Later, he was elected principal of the Terraville School in Lead, South Dakota. This school served a community dependent on the Homestake Mine. Jay was interested in geology and mineralogy, and organized a trip to Yellowstone before it became world-known. He also wrote a text on the geology of the Black Hills that was used in the local schools.

In 1899, Jay decided to go to South Africa. He arrived in Johannesburg a month before the Boer War, and was welcomed by friends from Lead who had preceded him. Jay's work on the gold mines was that of a metalurgist in charge of the treatment of ore containing gold until it was made into gold bricks. Jay wrote of his journey to South Africa as



Maude K. and Jay F. Pyles

one of "prolonged joy." He retired in 1930 after spending thirty-one years in South Africa.

Mr. Pyles' wife was the former Maude Knickerbocker, who taught in the Terraville School when Mr. Pyles was the principal. She was a native of Kansas, a graduate of Kansas State University, and later of the Spearfish Normal. She and Mr. Pyles were betrothed and, in 1906, she joined him in Johannesburg where they were married.

Mr. and Mrs. Pyles had one son and one daughter. When their children were ready for college, Mrs. Pyles brought them to Berkeley, California, where they were students at the University of California. After Mr. Pyles retired, he returned to the United States and they built a lovely home in Southern California, which they enjoyed for thirteen years.

Mr. Pyles died in 1947 and is buried in Central City, Nebraska next to his mother, father, and grandfather. Mrs. Pyles lived to be almost ninety-five. She too is buried in Central City, next to her husband and his family.

Their son, Hamilton (1909-1980), retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1966 as Deputy Chief. Their daughter, Marjorie Honzik (1908-—), has spent more than fifty years at the University of California as a student and later as lecturer and research psychologist at the Institute of Human Development. Jay and Maude are survived by four grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. *Submitted by William R. Marsh, M.D.*

EDNA MEYER QUANDT

I have lived in Merrick County since August, 1973, but my roots are deeper as my maternal grandparents, Herman Wiegert (1862-1953) and Augusta Stiller (1867-1933) lived all their married life in western Merrick County.

My paternal grandparents, John Meyer (1860-1925) and Margaret Bruggeman (1862-1951) lived near Chapman when they came from Germany. They then settled on a farm west of Worms in Howard County.

My parents, Henry Meyer (1888-1976) and Meta Wiegert (1890) met while working at the Lewis Kroeger farm in western Merrick County. They were married in 1913 at the bride's home. They lived in Howard County four miles from Worms, where I attended school, graduating from the 8th grade in 1931.

In 1937, I married Arthur Quandt. We lived on a farm 7 miles west of Chapman in Hall County. We had 5 children; Walter, Howard, Orin, Arthur and Jacquelyn. In 1973 our son Art took over the farm and we moved to Chapman. Arthur Sr. died April 17, 1976.

My mother-in-law, Metta Borstelman Quandt (since changed to Bosselman) (1878-1944) lived in Merrick County when her parents came from Germany in 1881. She was four years old when her father, Claus Borstelman, was killed. A well that he was digging caved in. He is buried in an unmarked grave near Chapman. Her mother married Herman Schipman. The Schipman place near Worms is still in the family, owned by the heirs of her half brother, Reinhardt Schipman, now deceased. *Submitted by Edna Quandt*

DR. J.Y. RACINES

Juan Isabelo Racines y Del Puerto (1888-1975) was born in the late 1880's in Cagayan, Mindanao Island, the Philippine Islands. His early schooling was in Catholic boys' schools run by Jesuit missionaries. He was graduated from Silliman University in the late 1910's and decided he wanted to study medicine in the United States.

The road from the Philippines to Palmer, Nebraska, was a long and trying one, but he never lost faith. The inscription in his copy of the New Testament, dated March 15, 1920, Manila, reads: "I have chosen this Book as my Comrade through thick and thin, in sickness and in good health, in plenty and in want for the glory of my Lord, my Guide and my ever-present Helper." Few people realized that Dr. Racines worked as a fruit picker, hotel busboy, houseboy, elevator operator, and in the Chicago post office in order to put himself through the University of Nebraska Medical School. He felt the brunt of racial discrimination toward Filipinoes, who were considered "colored," in the early days in Omaha.

In November, 1923, he decided he must quit college due to lack of funds. Luckly, this was short-lived, and he returned to school with the help of his cousin, John Gonzales, who was having similar problems. Gonzales quit school and worked to pay Racines' tuition. In return, after graduating in 1925 and serving as one of the first interns at St. Francis' Hospital in Grand Island, Dr. Racines paid his cousin's tuition until he graduated and became a surgeon residing in Nogales, New Mexico.

Dr. Racines came to Palmer, Nebraska, to practice at the suggestion and urging of Dr. W.J. Arrasmith, who told him it need only be a temporary practice until he got experience and could decide where he would like to locate permanently. The first few years passed, and he realized that he loved the people and the area, and could not leave. He felt accepted, respected, and at home.

A typical country doctor, Dr. Racines often made housecalls in the early days of his practice by wagon, horseback, or even on foot if the weather and roads warranted such. He practiced for nearly 50 years in the Palmer area — most of that time his practice was open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. He was a member of the Merrick County Medical Society from its inception, the Nebraska Medical Association, and the American Medical Association.



Dr. J. Y. Racines

In 1945 Dr. J.Y. Racines was married to LaBelle Maria Stouter, a native of Palmer. She turned out to be his emergency nurse as well, having graduated from St. Francis School of Nursing in Grand Island in 1940. For the remainder of his practice, LaBelle helped with home deliveries, accidents, and miscellanea, and also raised their family essentially single-handedly. In 1946 their daughter, Sandra Lee, was born, followed in 1949 by the birth of another daughter, Cynthia Lou.

Dr. Racines' constant goal was to work to the best of his abilities, and to continue learning. He truly believed all humanity was his family. *Submitted by Sandy Racines Nogg*



Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Raecke, by their new house on the farm.

ROBERT & HEDWIG RAECKE

Hedwig J. Pinschs' (Born 1871) father, (Fredrick Pinsch) came to America from Elbing, Germany to make his fortune and send for his family. Before enough money arrived, his wife, Maria, became ill and died leaving seven living children. Hedwig buried her mother, took the available money and brought herself and the three youngest of the family (Emma, George and Gertrude) to Grand Island to her father. This was about 1892 or 1893. Robert J. Raecke (born 1868) accompanied them. He and Hedwig were married after their arrival in Grand Island. Robert worked in Grand Island in a furniture store for a time. Then they purchased a farm north of Chapman. Here they raised their family, Ella, Otto, Walter, Frieda and George. The children attended District #37 and Central City High School. Ella married Boyd Ferguson. They had two children, Elvira, (Mrs. Gerald Dexter) and Dorothy (Mrs. Everett Hobbs). Ella died in the flu epidemic of 1918. Otto, a civil engineer, lived in several towns in Nebraska and then in New York. Walter was a lawyer practicing in Central City. His children are Marjorie Jean (Mrs. Don Prince), Dick and Bill. Frieda married Freeman Bestian and lived in Taylor Ridge, Illinois. George died in 1921.

After Ella's death, her children, Elvira and Dorothy, lived with the grandparents Raecke until 1923, when their father remarried Pearl Wait and they returned to live with him.

Robert Raecke being a soldier and cabinetmaker while in Germany knew nothing of farming. He bought books and became knowledgable and successful by his own effort to learn all he could. Robert was a firm believer in education, sending his sons to college in a time when many didn't finish the 8th grade.

Hedwig was a quiet, gentle woman. Her crochet work and quilts are still treasured in many homes. She cared for her brother and sisters, her own children and her two grandchildren for five years with patience and love.

Around 1925 the Raeckes sold the farm and moved back to Grand Island where they lived until their deaths, he in 1942 and she in 1948. They are buried in the Chapman Cemetery. *Submitted by E. Dexter*

WALTER & ORRAL RAECKE

Walter R. Raecke (1894-1960) was the son of Robert J. and Hedwig Pinsch Raecke, immigrants from Elbing, Germany. He graduated from Central City High School in 1913 and received his law degree from the University of Nebraska in 1917. He served his country as a Second Lieutenant in the Army until after the Armistice. He returned to his



Walter R. Raecke and Orral J. Young — Wedding — 1921

home town to set up his law practice and from then on figured prominently in the life of the community. He was especially active in the Presbyterian Church on the local and presbytery level, in Masonic work achieving the high office of Grand Master of the Masons in Nebraska and Worthy Grand Patron of the Order of Eastern Star besides other Masonic honors. He was also well known in the American Legion. He served Merrick County as County Attorney for fifteen years and then served the people of Nebraska as a member of the Legislature 1940-1948, his last two terms as Speaker of the Legislature. He ran unsuccessfully two times as the Democratic party nominee for Governor. On the occasion of his retirement from the Legislature, the Lincoln Star printed the following tribute: "There ought to be some way in which the legislative services of a man like Sen. Walter Raecke could be retained. He is the highest type of legislator, scholarly, hard-working, a fine upstanding character. He is thorough in his work, fair-minded, far-sighted, equipped with experience. It is a sacrifice on his part to pull himself away from his practice every two years, but Mr. Raecke is the kind of a man who should go on and on serving in a public capacity. There are all too few of them."

In 1921 Mr. Raecke married Orral Young (1900-1979), a native of Beloit, KS whose grandparents Jasper Marion and Martha Sherman Young had immigrated to Merrick County at around the turn of the century. Through the years in Central City, Orral contributed a great deal to the cultural life of the town as she was an accomplished organist. She gave of her talents to the First Presbyterian Church and later also the Grace Lutheran Church at regular services as well as lending the comfort of her beautiful music to many families when funeral services were held for their loved ones. In addition, hundreds of Central City's young people received the foundation of their musical development as piano and organ students of Mrs. Raecke. Because of her wealth of contacts with people she prepared in a musical way, she was called upon regularly by individuals and organizations to furnish portions of programs enjoyed by a large number of the citizens of Merrick County.

She was well known in Presbyterian circles for her work on the Platte Presbyterial Board and in the Order of Eastern Star for her inspiring and faithful creativeness. She was a governor's appointee on the Nebraska State Board of Health and was a member of the original committee which promoted the low income housing of which the community can be very proud.

Walter and Orral had three children: Marjorie Jean Prince (CCHS class of 1941), wife of a family physician; Richard J. (class of 1947), an educator; and William R. (class of 1954), in public media, TV and newspapers. *Submitted by Marjorie Raecke Prince*

GRANT & MARY RAMAGE

In 1898, Grant Ramage left Ohio to come to Nebraska. The seventh of eight children, he was born in 1870 on a farm south of Zanesville. He left home at the age of fourteen to work at various jobs in the city. He liked to tell of coming from a job in a bicycle rim factory to work for his uncle, Con Wortman, on a farm about six miles west of Central City. Telling about the resulting blisters and callouses was a favorite story! He returned to Zanesville to marry his sweetheart, Mary Tipton Myers, on March 1, 1900, and bring her to Nebraska. They spent part of their first years in Polk County. By 1909, Mary had persuaded her three brothers to come to Nebraska. They also got her parents and Grant's parents to Nebraska. In 1912, they moved to Central City permanently. Grant was a salesman working out of Central City by rail. In 1914, he bought his first Model T Ford to better serve his territory. He often carried other salesmen, not only for pay but also to help push the car out of mud holes.

In 1922, they bought the grocery business from J.K. Kerr at 1625 16th St. Combined with his grocery, Mr. Kerr also had one of the last Postal Telegraph stations. G. and M. (Grant and Mary) Ramage was among the first 'papa and mama' stores. They worked long and hard to be successful. Their motto, 'The Quality Store' was just that. They respected their customers' integrity, and the customers respected theirs. Credit and service was their forte. They were pioneers in offering frozen foods, and in the installation of an open refrigerated dairy display case.

Grant was for many years superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School. Mary Ramage was active in the Womens' Relief Corps and church groups. They also actively supported Nebraska Central College to the extent of their financial ability. They had faith in Merrick County, and during their times built two new residences in Central City. G. and M. Ramage and the succeeding Ramage Grocery served Central City and the surrounding trade area for over 35 years.

Mrs. Ramage died in 1942, and Mr. Ramage in 1963. Both are buried in the cemetery north of Central City. An only son, Richard, survives them. He now lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. *Submitted by Richard G. Ramage*

HAYES & MARTHA RANDALL

C. Hayes Randall came to Merrick County in 1929. He moved to "Little's Island" near Havens with his parents, Samuel and Bertha Randall, from Shubert, Nebraska. Hayes was born August 31, 1903 at Forest City, Missouri. As a young man, he worked on highway construction and farmed. He married Martha Dittmer at Osceola, Nebraska, in 1933. She was born May 29, 1902, to Henry and Margaret (Maggie) Dittmer. Prior to her marriage, she worked in homes. She lived with her mother and also helped care for her nephew, Francis Bladt.

They farmed Martha's homeplace and looked after her mother until she passed away in 1951. In 1952, they purchased the farm from the Dittmer estate. In 1959, they sold the farm to the Reflin Brothers and purchased their home in Clarks from Mr. and Mrs. Ben Rempe. After moving to town Hayes worked for Roy Nelson, served as nightwatchman, and spent several years employed by Harold Beck Construction. They are members of the Congregational Church.

Martha passed away May 14, 1967. Hayes still resides in Clarks, and especially enjoys visiting with his friends. He's always been a lover of nature, and especially enjoys hunting and fishing.

They had two daughters, Lois, born April 7, 1934 and Elaine, born November 22, 1937. Both girls attained their elementary education at District #7, and both are graduates of Clarks High School.

Lois attended Nebraska Central College and the University of Nebraska. She taught three years at Pleasant Hill School, District #15, in Merrick County, one year at her home school, District #7, and three years as fourth grade teacher in Clarks Public School. She married Norman Paul Ulferts of Fullerton, Nebraska, on June 15, 1960. They are members of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Fullerton. They resided on the Dunn farm N.W. of Clarks. Paul farmed Harry Jessee's land until 1962; then farmed the Dunn land. Lois taught kindergarten in Clarks in 1961-62. In 1964, they moved to a farm southwest of Fullerton and are engaged in diversified farming. They have three children, Norma born December 2, 1964, Mark born May 31, 1966, and Cheryl born April 12, 1968.

Elaine graduated from Grand Island Beauty School and opened her own shop in Clarks in 1957. She married William "Bill" Lee, son of George and Mildred Lee, on June 18, 1958, in the Congregational Church at Clarks. Bill operated a cream truck for the Fullerton Creamery, and farmed. Then he became manager of the Farmer's Co-op at Clarks. They adopted Audrey, born May 7, 1963. They moved to Albion, Nebraska, in 1964, where Bill managed the Co-op. They adopted David, born February 5, 1965. On August 23, 1966, Audrey passed away. They adopted Claudia, born January 12, 1967. In 1974, they moved to Falls City, Nebraska, where they purchased a Phillips *66* business. Andrea was born September 23, 1976. They sold their stations in 1979 and moved to Pierce, Nebraska where Bill is manager of the Farmer's Co-op Ass'n. They are members of Zion Lutheran Church. *Submitted by Lois Randall Ulferts*



Lois, Elaine, Martha and Hayes Randall

SAMUEL & BERTHA RANDALL



Samuel and Bertha Randall

Samuel and Bertha Randall moved to Merrick County, on Little's Island, near Havens in 1929 with their six sons: Hayes, Donald, Joe, Ross, Martin, and Sam. Their two daughters remained in Missouri. They farmed in several areas of Merrick County during their lifetime, including the District #50 area, Prairie Island, Near Central City, and Lamb's Island south of Clarks.

Upon their retirement they lived on Pawnee Ranch near their son Donald.

They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1950.

They were members of the Pierce Chapel Methodist Church.

Samuel was born February 20, 1876 at Willowtree, Kentucky and passed away February 2, 1955 at the home of his son Joe, in Independence, Iowa.

Bertha was born March 9, 1882 at Orleans, Nebraska and passed away December 24, 1960 while staying with her daughter, Dorothy McMillan of LaHabra, California. *Submitted by granddaughter Lois Randall Ulferts*

RANDELL-SHOUP

Ulysses Grant Randell was born September 15, 1869, in Howard County (St. Paul) to Miles Randell and Harriett Adelia McBride. He was married December 31, 1890, to Susanna Shoup, who was born December 14, 1873, in Peoria, Illinois, to John Luther Shoup and Irene Rouse. Mr. Grant Randell operated a pool hall in Palmer. The children born to Ulysses Grant Randell and Susanna Shoup were:

Ethel Randell (July 15, 1892 to June 8, 1974) married December 29, 1909, to Thomas Scarborough Robinson (February 28, 1882 to April 13, 1949),

Lucy Randell (December 20, 1894 to August 29, 1913) married January 1912, to Henry Haggerman,

Edna Marie Randell (March 25, 1899) married August 10, 1930, to Frank Rix,

Bessie Irene Randell (August 29, 1901 to January 28, 1962) married March 11, 1925, to William J. Meyer,

Berton Thomas Randell (March 25, 1906) married October, 1928, to Eva Volwiler. This marriage ended in divorce, and he married Evangeline Walker in June, 1944. *Submitted by Mrs. A.P. Campbell*

ROBERT RANKIN FAMILY

The Rankin family moved from Red Oak, Iowa, the spring of 1909 to a farm home two miles east and one-half mile south of Archer, Nebraska. The farm was purchased from D.W. Farnham for $25.00 an acre. Mr. Farnham was Addie Swartout Eoff's grandfather. The Burlington Railroad runs through the middle of the farm. The farm buildings were all very close to the railroad track. The corner of our house was just two feet from the right-of-way fence.

The spring of 1914 was a very dry spring, and in April the sparks from a late afternoon freight train set fire to our house. It burned to the ground. A new house was built, but farther away from the railroad track.

There were five Rankin children (three girls and two boys) Lena, Kenneth, Margaret, Everett and Evangeline.

Robert Lee and Euphemie Maniford Rankin lived at their farm home until the death of Mr. Rankin in September 1940. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Lone Tree Lodge A.F. & A.M., Central City.

Mrs. Rankin then moved to Denver, Colorado, to live with her three daughters. She moved back to Archer, Nebraska, in the fall of 1968 to make her home with the Edward Sullivan family.

Lena Rankin married Edward T. Sullivan September 15, 1924; Kenneth Rankin married Viola Whitney April 3, 1924; Margaret Rankin married William S. Johnston July 17, 1923; Everett Rankin married Dorothy Davis February 1934; Evangeline Rankin married Robert H. Johnston January 3, 1933; Mrs. Rankin passed away October 31, 1973; Kenneth Rankin passed away August 1, 1971 in Denver, Colorado; Everett Rankin passed away April 1974 in Central City, Nebraska; William S. Johnston passed away September 2, 1971 in Denver, Colorado.

The Rankin farm was sold to Norman Marsh. *Submitted by Lena Sullivan*

JESSE RASER FAMILY

Jesse Raser, son of Joshua Raser, was born September 21, 1901, on the west Raser farm near Chapman Nebraska. He and his brothers helped their father farm. On September 21, 1922, he married Gladys Mae Reeder, daughter of Clyde and Lula Eva Mae Reeder from near Prairie Creek, Nebraska. They lived on the Raser farm one-half mile west and one-half mile north of Chapman. They had four children: Lyle, Verla, Donna, and Victor. We all remember many good times on the farm. Dad was busy with his farm work, but he built us a pony cart and our pony, Dandy, pulled us to and from school. When the weather was too bad to walk to school, we'd bundle up and go in the wagon full of hay. On winter Saturday nights we would go to Chapman by sled for the free drawings held in the fire house. Wednesday summer nights, there were



Jesse and Gladys Raser

free movies in Chapman. Every one came to town for this.

Jesse was a 4-H leader for many years and all four children were active in 4-H. Jesse and Gladys were both active in the Baptist Church. Jesse was on the school board for many years. In 1938, Jesse took over the milk route in Chapman, requiring the help of the entire family to milk cows, bottle and deliver the milk and cream. The four children were active in the Baptist Church, and all graduated from Chapman High School, having attended this school throughout their entire school days.

In 1949, Jesse had a farm sale and moved to Grand Island where he worked at the stockyards and Gladys at a restaurant. In September, 1950, they moved to Denver, Colorado where they owned and operated a restaurant. September, 1957, they moved to Missoula, Montana, where Jesse worked with his brother, Howard, at the Missoula Livestock Commission, which Howard owned. Howard and Jesse also raised Appaloosa horses. Gladys Raser passed away at Missoula, Montana, February 27, 1969. Jesse was remarried to Judy Backus of Missoula. Jesse passed away December 18, 1977. Judy now lives in Corvallis, Montana, near her two daughters. *Submitted by Donna Lee Roses Brown*

JOSHUA & ALMA RASER

On November 10, 1887, Joshua Clay Raser married Alma Bush who had come from Ohio to Chapman by train that March to live with her father's brother, Walter Bush, and his wife, Sally Hollister Bush. A few months after her arrival Walter Bush, a charter member of Chapman Baptist Church, died. Alma, born the year Nebraska became a state, as she often proudly reminded people during her lifetime, was twenty when she began her homemaking career on a claim of Jefferson Davis Raser, an uncle of J. Clay's, southeast of Chapman. Her marriage marked the end of being a hired girl, living with relatives wherever she was needed. Her mother died in childbirth when she was four and her father, a schoolteacher travelling wherever he could find students, could not care for two small daughters for more than a few months at a time.

Edna, the first of their children, was born in 1888 near Chapman. They moved to a Palmer farm where J. Clay enjoyed playing with a Palmer band whenever his farming activities would allow. This love of music would carry throughout his life and he would spend many of his spare hours playing in the band wherever he lived. Sumner and Forrest were born before the couple returned to Chapman purchasing the farm located one half mile east of his father's homestead. Here the rest of their family — Howard, Lou Emma, Blanche, Jesse and Walter Clark — was born.

In 1913 they moved into the Raser house 'by the crick.'

Edna married James B. Jones in 1908. They raised four children. Both Edna and James died in 1945 in their Chapman home.

Forrest married Betty Miller of Chapman in 1915. They later established a home in western Nebraska where they lived at the time of his death.

Sumner married Elsie Lester, a niece of Dr. Triplett and farmed the original Raser homestead until 1930 when they moved to Iowa.

Howard married Elizabeth Hulbert. He operated a Chapman meat market and was an auctioneer until he entered the Army. After returning from the service he moved to Lexington.

Lou Emma became the wife of Emmons Wiegert.

Blanche married Ernest Hudnall November 10, 1920. The ceremony was performed in the same spot in the same house where her parents had been married thirty-three years before on that date.

Jesse and Gladys Reeder were married in 1922. Their home was the farm where he was raised. After their four children were grown they moved to Denver, Colorado.

Walter Clark graduated from Nebraska Central College and began his teaching career in Moorcroft, Wyoming. At the time of his death he was teaching and living in Omaha.

J. Clay died in 1933 and Alma in 1955. Of their children three survive — Howard in Montana, LouEmma Wiegert in Fremont and Blanche Hudnall, a life long resident of Chapman.

The house 'by the creek' was moved in the late 1960's and is now in western Merrick County. *Submitted by Bonnie Gelling*

LYLE RASER FAMILY

Lyle and I were married in Chapman, Nebraska, on March 5, 1950. Lyle was born January 6, 1924, the son of Jesse and Gladys Raser. He was raised on a farm a mile north-west of Chapman. He has two sisters, Verla Nabity and Donna Brown, and a brother, Vic Raser.

I was born Charlotte Peterson in Alda, Nebraska, May 5, 1931, and moved to Chapman in August of 1945 with my twin brother, Charles, and mother, Edna Fleming, who had taught school in Chapman the three previous years. I also have a sister, Jackie Fleming, of Franklin, Nebraska.

Lyle graduated from Chapman High School in 1942. He farmed with his father until 1945 when he served in the Marine Corps for fourteen months, then farmed again until our marriage.

I graduated in 1948 and worked in Washington, D.C., and Lincoln, Nebraska, as a clerk typist. Following our marriage, we moved to McMinnville, Oregon, for a couple of months, then settled in Grand Island, Nebraska. Lyle worked for Bill Knight Construction Company in Chapman and I worked for Silas Mason Company as a secretary in the payroll department. We moved to Denver, Colorado, in June, 1945, where Lyle's parents and sister Donna and family resided. Lyle was in construction work where he operated heavy equipment, and was later a foreman for a home-building company. In 1968, he started in the mobile home business in the service department.

We have four children. Pam, twenty-seven, lives in San Diego, California. Cheryl, twenty-three, lives in Ft. Collins, Colorado, and is married to Douglas Cermak. Scott, twenty, and his wife Yvonne live in Ft. Collins and have an eight-month-old son, Jesse, named after his late great grandfather, Jesse Raser. Jan, sixteen, is a junior in high school.

While in Denver, I was a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, where I taught church school



Lyle and Charlotte Raser

and was active in the Women's Association. At school, I was active in the PTA and was a Camp Fire Girl leader.

In October, 1972, we moved to our present home in Ft. Collins, Colorado. Lyle has been a truck driver for the past seven years and bought his own truck last fall. Our son, Scott, works with him. They haul sand to Denver.

Besides taking care of my family, I have several hobbies that include cake decorating, sewing and crafts, yard and garden work. I frequently baby-sit for our grandson. I recently completed a course in hand-writing analysis.

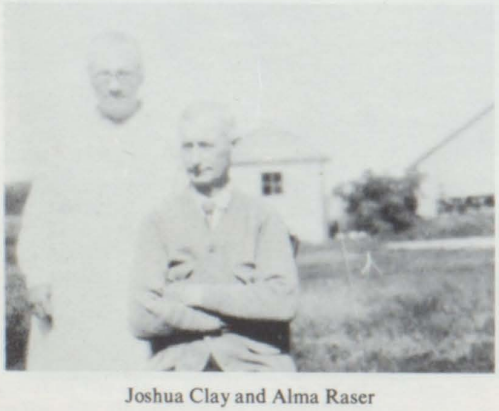
We have been blessed with good health, a fine family, a full and abundant life. *Submitted by Charlotte Raser*

W.W. & CLAY RASER FAMILY

William Wesley Raser was the great grandfather of Donna Raser. Great grandpa was born in Ohio in 1839, moved with his parents to Genesse, Illinois in 1855, and to Iowa in 1859. There he married Permelia Roberts. He served in the Civil War from August, 1862, to the end of the war. His mustering-out pay was $300, two mules, and the right to take up a homestead.

In 1872, they migrated to Chapman, Nebraska, where he homesteaded a 160-acre farm one-half mile north and one mile west of the town. They built a sod house and planted a grove of cottonwood trees, which was required for a wind break on the Nebraska prairie. The next year he built the first school house in the area. You can still see the indented area where the old sod house stood. Later a small frame house replaced the soddy, and later a large frame house was built. The grandchildren remember playing in the small frame house that was used for storage. Upstairs was an old sewing machine that had to be turned by hand. It was replaced by a modern foot treadle machine. Great grandpa was a prosperous farmer. He also owned several rental properties in Grand Island.

Wesley and Permelia had four children. Joshua Clay was our grandfather, born 1861. A young lady, Alma Ellis Bush, had come to Chapman, but during the summer of 1887 she was going to return to Paris, Illinois. Joshua Clay changed her mind, for on their first date a proposal came forth with his insistence that she remain in Chapman. They were married that fall in the not-quite-finished house of his father. Joshua's and Alma's first home was one mile east of Chapman. After a short stay, they took a timber claim two miles south of Palmer, Nebraska, residing there for five years, then moved back to Chapman on a farm one-half mile north and one-half mile west of Chapman. They lived there until 1913, when they purchased and moved into the house where they were married, one-half mile further west. Joshua retired in 1922, when they moved into Chapman and both lived out their lives in Chapman. Joshua and Wesley Raser made a speciality of raising several breeds of very fine draft horses. From the first school house built on Wesley's farm in 1873, to 1949, there were children with the Raser name in school every year in Chapman. Joshua and Alma Raser had eight children. The children all lived on the farm with their parents until grown. One daughter, Blanche, and her husband, Ernest Hudnall, still live in Chapman and another daughter, Lou Emma Weigert, lives in Fremont, Nebraska. A son, Howard Raser, lives in Missoula, Montana. The other children are deceased. *Submitted by Donna Lee Raser Brown*



Joshua Clay and Alma Raser

WILLIAM & PERMELIA RASER

William Wesley Raser married Permelia Roberts and had two children, Joshua Clay and Jenny Lind, by the time he went to fight for the Union like his seven brothers. After serving four years as a soldier, he returned home to pick up his life again. Two more children, Miles and Ella, were born to the couple. With Ella little more than a baby, the Raser family traveled from Geneseo, Illinois, by covered wagon, pulled by a mule, and the milk cow. They settled near Prairie Creek. Their oldest son was seven years old that year of 1868.

William Wesley established a homestead claim on Prairie Creek, where the family spent their first three winters in a dugout. Later he took out a timber claim one and a half miles north of Chapman. Permelia and the children were alone during the first five winters while Wes, a master carpenter, stayed at the building sites where he was working. During the winter he built the schoolhouse known as the Wiser Schoolhouse, he was trapped by a blizzard. While waiting for help to arrive, he survived for four days by parching corn from a nearby field for food.

William Wesley's brother, Jefferson Davis Raser, also homesteaded near Chapman. He moved to Central City, became a real estate agent, and with Mr. Barnes built the Ratcliff Hotel.

Another brother, Thomas Jefferson Raser, came to Merrick County and established his home in Central City, after his retirement as the promoter-manager of "Blind Boone," a popular pianist of the era.

The timber claim became the Raser family home when a small house was built, and it was here that William Wesley farmed the rest of his life. He raised hogs of exceptional quality and soon became known as "Hog" Raser. During these years "on the crick" he built a mill, but the venture failed, as the Warm Slough was not an adequate nor dependable source of power.



W. W. Raser's house by the crick — built in 1887

November 10, 1887, the Rasers held an open house to mark the completion of their new home — exceptional at that time, because it had numerous clothes closets.

Joshua Clay married Alma Bush and remained in Merrick County.

Jenny Lind married Dr. Martin and moved to Dorchester, Nebraska. The Martins returned to Chapman before Dr. Martin's death, after which Jenny moved to Central City and lived there until her death.

Miles never married, and remained at home until his death.

Ella married Elmer Easter. They lived in Chapman until 1911, when they moved to Idaho.

Permelia Roberts Raser died in February 1903 at the age of fifty-four. She is remembered as an exceptionally kind and good woman. William Wesley died at seventy-two years of age in 1913. *Submitted by Bonnie Gelling*

VICTOR D. RASER FAMILY

I, Vic Raser, was born in Merrick County on February 11, 1932, the fourth child of Jesse and Gladys Raser. We lived on a farm one-half mile north and one-half mile west of Chapman.

I graduated from Chapman High School in the class of 1950. I believe I was the last Raser to attend Chapman High School, which broke a line of Rasers in attendance for fifty years.

After high school, I attended Hastings College and, after serving in the U.S.Army, I graduated in 1957. Upon graduation, I moved from Nebraska to Denver, Colorado.

In Denver, I met Joan Aileen Bradley, and we were married in 1959. We now reside at 3343 Northridge Drive, Grand Junction, Colorado. We have three sons: Jeffrey Dean (16), Jonathan Bradley (12), and Jason Christopher (10).

We own and operate Alpine Travel Trailers sales and service at 2487 Highway 6 & 50 in Grand Junction. We go camping and boating in our spare time. *by Victor Raser*

JAMES R. RATCLIFF

James Robert and Sarah Porter Ratcliff and their children homesteaded in Merrick County in the College Section of Lone Tree in 1871. Better known as Big Mama and Papa Jim in the close family circle, they felt they had found this community on the prairie their Utopia.

Mr. Ratcliff had served with the Indiana Volunteers in the Civil War, was incarcerated in a Confederate prison for eighteen months and served with the Honor Guard on the funeral train bearing President Lincoln to Springfield. Sarah's family had immigrated from Scotland in 1840 to Indiana and proved to be of hardy stock.

After a brief time on the homestead Sarah and J.R. moved to town where they became deeply involved in community life. Papa Jim served as postmaster, county treasurer, city council member, a member of the Nebraska Legislature and finally, mayor of Central City at the age of eighty. They were both steadfast in their educational goals for their children and at the same time they instilled their love of the town, the land, the Church and each other into those children and their descendants. Tragically, Big Mama was killed by a train in front of the depot as she hurried home from a Circle meeting in 1920. Papa Jim passed away in 1923.

Frederick Charles, their son, attended Hastings College and the State University before embarking on a career as a real estate speculator and builder. He purchased the Schiller Hotel, now the Lincoln Manor but for many years The Ratcliff Hotel as well as two others. Fred conceived the idea of building and operating modern apartments and duplexes, the first of their kind in Central City. Some were the Ratcliff Apartments, the Bonnie Briar and the Marianna Apartments as well as a number of modern bungalows. My bubble burst years later when "my namesake" was changed to the Ace Apartments. His deep-rooted confidence in the future of the town led to the purchase of the State Theater building, the Clifford Cafe and the building which housed Clark's bakery where he maintained his office and storerooms.

Along the way, he aquired an unused chicken house, moved it to Riverside where he added a stone fireplace, a kitchen and a sleeping porch and pronounced it the family's "summer place."

In 1896, Fred married Mary Rice, daughter of Judge and Mrs. W.H.C. Rice. A gold cross which was awarded her for scholastic excellence at Brownell Hall is inscribed "Fidas, Scienta, Fortitude." This could well serve as the family motto.

Their son, Theodore Rice, graduated in law from the University of Nebraska but after practicing law briefly, he followed his true calling in the hotel management business. He distinguished himself in some of the finest resort hotels in the country. Ted and his wife, Mary Hallisey, and their four children, Mary Jr., Ted, Jeffrey and Margaret moved often before making their home in Palm Springs. Ted commuted to Las Vegas for a time and then returned to hotels in the area until his death two years ago.

In the tradition of her "roots" Margaret Louise,

too, was outstanding in her contributions of herself and her talents in liberal arts. She attended the University of Southern California and graduated from the University of Nebraska after which she taught in Ravenna and Central City. Margaret worked with people, young and old, producing and directing entertainment affairs for worthy causes of every kind. She shared her knowledge of the arts through readings of contemporary works, commencement addresses, programs on Nebraska authors and history of the state as well as commentary presentations of Broadway musicals and the theater. Sharing this with her little town was her great love. Both Margaret and her mother, Mary, were activists before their time as equals in the family, Presbyterian Church, town, politics and their insatiable interest in everything around them.

In 1926 Margaret married Robert V. Campbell who was at that time in the stock feeding business with his father, J.F. Campbell. Rob had served as a Lieutenant in the Air Service as a flight instructor until the end of World War I. His happiest memories were of his part as a pioneer in the new science of aviation.

One of Margaret's projects during World War II was serving as chairman of the scrap drive. She brought anguish to many when she commandeered the fountain in the Triangle, the cannon in North Park, many iron fences around private homes, but, most of all, the rusty cultivators, manure spreaders, etc. which were knee-high in weeds on our own farm. With her wrenches, pliers and hammers she dismantled them over the protests of our Dad.

In Rob and Margaret's lives together, they produced two daughters, Janet (Mrs. L.H. Eckes) and Marianna (Mrs. James G. Myers). By hard work and a great deal of give and take they merged their town and farm lives successfully by being active in both lives. The many duties of a farm wife came first with Mother, and Dad stretched his long days on the farm to live and enjoy his role in the affairs of the town and his family. Theirs was a meld of tenacity in action and they left holes in the life of Central City with their passing.

Passing note:

With the my marriage to James G. Myers we moved to Texas where Jim graduated in Physics and then moved on to California where, in the truest sense of the word, we and our three children became a good example of the one generation nuclear family. Through the years we recognized the myopic view which children get under the circumstances. Our endeavor was one of making clear to them the uniquencess that was typical of Mid-Western families which included several generations, both older and younger, where the knowledge, wisdom and pride of one's self were learned easily by their very proximity to real, live examples. We are well satisfied with the results. In the process they have all married and presented us with five lovely grandchildren. Funny — there now are three generations of us in the West, sharing in the same way as those generations before us in Merrick County. The only problem is that Jim and I have suddenly become the "Big Mama" and "Papa Jim" of which I wrote earlier. That does bring us up short now and then but the beauty of the idea certainly compensates for that one little detail. I tell myself that age brings a kind of dignity. Our lives are here but our hearts will always be just a little bit divided.

No man is an island. *Submitted by Marianna Campbell Myers*

CECIL RAWLINGS FAMILY

Dad, Cecil Curtis, was born on January 19, 1908, three-fourth mile north of Archer. The third child of John Oren and Anna Pearl Rawlings. The family moved to Section 15 Township 14 Range 7, when Dad was four years old. He attended school at District #14 and Archer, then worked with his father doing a man's work.

Mom, Mildred, was born in Greeley County, the second daughter of Albert and Martha (Wegner) Suck came to Merrick County when a child. Mom is a tender, soft-hearted person, whose discipline was never harsh. Her spankings were more likely to make us laugh than cry. She attended school in Archer, District #47, and Central City.

Dad and Mom were married June 23, 1926. This



Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Curtis Rawlings

was about the beginning of the depression. Then came the drought years of the thirties which were far greater than we have had since. It was not easy to raise a family those days. This leads us to wonder just when were the "good old days." Do you suppose that is why dad was so disappointed in us the year we ran the wheels off of our new red wagon "flying" down hill the week of Christmas vacation, when we lived near Wolbach, Nebraska.

We drove old Jane, our pony, to school, sometimes three miles. Jane didn't think too much of school and would go home without us, so we had to walk. We attended several different schools.

In 1945 our parents moved to the farm they purchased two miles east of Archer. This is what we called home, located in Section 22 — Township 14 —Range 7. There were eight children. Lloyd Leroy died in 1936 of drowning when he was two years old. Leota married Jack Baird; I married Aileen Rudolf; Delores married Gerald Gleason; Oren married Mary Reichardt. In 1954 the folks bought a farm and moved to McRae, Arkansas. Wendell married Joyce Whitener, Arlene married Wayne Kirk. In 1959 they returned to the home place. Cecil Lee married Pamela Lahners.

Dad was a school board member for a number of years until District #14 emerged with District #23. Dad was one of the pioneers in irrigation in Merrick County, being recognized for drilling wells and having surveying done in 1948 by the Soil Conservation Service.

Dad has loved farming but mostly he loves working with animals. He was always proud of the mules he raised and "broke." Two pair found their way to Alaska. He took pride in the Belgian horses he raised and showed at the State Fair.

Exotic animals and birds have been his greatest challenge. Upon arriving to see grandpa, the grandchildren take off to see what is new in his menagerie. There have been buffalo, llama, pea fowl, golden pheasant and wild turkeys.

Mom and dad's lives have been a classroom for all of their decendants. Their family and church were uppermost in their lives. Mom was a member of the Zion Church until her marriage and both are members of Fairview United Methodist Church. *Submitted by Jack C. Rawlings.*

JACK RAWLINGS FAMILY

Both Jack and I spent the early years of our lives in Merrick County. Jack was born just east of Archer, where his parents Cecil and Mildred (Suck) Rawlings were living, on December 27, 1928. He attended several rural schools, among them District #30 and #35.

I attended District #44, when my parents lived nine and one fourth miles west of Central City on the Ormsby road. I attended District #58 after my father bought my grandfather's farm four miles east of Palmer, and my grandparents moved into Palmer to live. I attended Archer High for two years and we both graduated from Central City High.

After graduation Jack farmed with his father until he began farming for himself. I taught school in rural Merrick County for two years. We were married in 1949 at the Zion Evangelical church of Merrick County and began farming one mile east and one-half mile south of that church.

At that time we were a part of School District #44. but it was soon consolidated with District #28. Our three oldest children also attended the Archer elementary school.

About 1957, Jack bought a "dirt scraper" and began rearranging Merrick County soil so it could be irrigated more easily. He worked at this for about three years.

In 1959, he had a farm sale and moved to St. Paul where he became associated with Southard Implement, a John Deere retail business. He continued land leveling in Merrick and Howard Counties for several years. In 1977 he sold that business and went back to farming.

Jack always loved raising animals. Although he raised stock cows, pigs, and a horse or two, his favorites were sheep.

We have three sons and three daughters who have shared their Grandfather Albert Rudolf's love for sports, especially baseball. Summers have been hectic, often having children on two or more ball teams. They have often competed with young people from Merrick County in school activities.

Our children are Leslie, who married Connie Miller of Beaver Crossing, Nebraska, and they are living in St. Paul. Wendy married Larry Graff; they have two daughters, Jennifer and Casey. Terry married Julie Lewandowski of Farwell. They have two daughters, Jordan and Ashley, and live in Kearney. Laura married Allan Horak of St. Libory. Gayle married Denny Barleen of St. Paul. They have a daughter Susan and are currently with the U.S. Airforce. Michael is a junior at St. Paul High School. *Submitted by Aileen Rawlings*

J.O. RAWLINGS FAMILY

John Oren Rawlings, son of Milton and Eliza Dooley Rawlings, born January 2, 1883, came from Saunders County, near Valparaiso.

The move was a memorable experience. Evenings they stopped at farmsteads for the night and were always welcomed. They used a "sheet iron" stove to prepare their meals.

Crossing the Platte River in the spring with the water at "high water" stage, the children were told to sit on the bottom of the wagon. The water began to rise about them and they were relieved when the horses climbed on solid ground.

Oren, as he was better known, attended Baker School west of Archer, later attending District #43 and ninth grade in Central City.

Dad went to Wheatland, Wyoming fall of 1901, by covered wagon. He drove a pair of mules and led a mare and mule colt, taking thirty days, arriving Halloween night. He had twenty-five cents in his pocket. His first job was working on the ditch. He hauled freight from Laramie into the mountains for the government.

Dad married Anna Pearl Curtis at Wheatland, Wyoming on May 28, 1902. Two children were born



Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Rawlings

to them in Wyoming, Lillie and Leonard. They lived in a tent through one winter. After five years, they returned to the Archer community. Other children are Cecil, Nita Watkins, Pauline Mapes, Opal Neel, Gertrude Williams, Bethel Hild and John. Lillie Stander passed away December 7, 1970. John, the youngest, died in 1943 when eighteen years old. All are living in Nebraska except Leonard and Pauline.

In 1912, they moved onto the place his father purchased in 1900, known as the "Home Place." In 1916, he began a herd of whiteface cattle. In 1918, he purchased a ranch in Holt County. He enjoyed raising purebred Belgian horses, showing at the state fair. He loved his horses and drove them in many parades. He took special pride in the Burwell and North Platte rodeo parades.

Dad was a fifty year member and Past Master of Lone Tree Lodge, Past Patron of Arbor Chapter #200 of Eastern Star, Royal Arch Masons, The York Rite. He was County Assessor and was accorded Outstanding Farmer's Award by Central City Chamber of Commerce in 1965.

Mom, the daughter of Lyman and Ida (Scarborough) Curtis; born October 7, 1882; third child of a family of twelve. Lyman came to Merrick County in 1878 with brother Charles and parents. He married Ida Scarborough July 4, 1880 at Palmer, Nebraska. They lived there until 1901 when he moved to Wheatland, Wyoming.

Mom was a lovely, hard working, good natured person. She made the best berry pie and often whistled while she worked. She and Dad were members of the Archer Methodist Church. In her younger days she sang in the church choir. She was a Past Matron of Arbor Chapter #200 of Eastern Star.

Mom passed away December 8, 1970 and Dad passed away on November 25, 1973. Both are at rest in the Central City Cemetery. *Submitted by Cecil Rawlings*

MILTON RAWLINGS FAMILY

It is a mystery why the Rawlings family left England, but they are known to have been in the United States prior to the Revolutionary War, some of them helping to defend their freedom.

Slowly over the next one hundred years, they edged their way across the country to Merrick County, Nebraska. Our ancestor, Daniel Rawlings, received Bounty Land in Indiana. His son, James Rawlings, settled in Iowa about 1850. In 1880, he and two sons were living in Saunders County, Nebraska.

Milton Harvey Rawlings, son of James and Rebecca (Russell) Rawlings, was born at Bloomfield, Iowa, November 6, 1853, the seventh of nine children. He married Eliza Ann Dooley, daughter of Samuel and Thirza (Hillman) Dooley, January 6, 1880.

In 1878, Milton, my grandad, went to Mount Vernon, Missouri, where he was in the drug and grocery business for two years. After spending the following winter in Iowa, he came to Nebraska, locating near Valparaiso. In 1887, he came to Merrick County, locating at Archer. For a brief time they stayed with the C.O. Chapman family who lived just on the east side of Prairie Creek.



Milton Rawlings with Great-grandchildren — Leota, Jack, Delores, Oren Rawlings, Betty, Barbara Watkins, Verian Kemper.

Later, Granddad built his home on eighty acres of land in Section 17 — Township 14 — Range 7. Three years later he bought eighty acres on the west side of the road, to which he moved. In 1898, Eliza died of the "Summer Complaint." Granddad moved into Central City. In 1900 he bought land in Section 15 — Township 14 — Range 7 and this became the "Home Place."

Milton and Eliza had three children: Mamie, Oren, and Samuel. Samuel and his wife did not survive the flu epidemic of 1918. They passed away just one week apart, leaving one small child named Zena. She made her home with Mamie and Elwin Secoy. Milton died in Central City on February 25, 1940; Eliza died in Central City August 28, 1898. Both rest in the Central City Cemetery. *Submitted by Cecil Rawlings*

JOHN K. RAY FAMILY

My grandparents, John K. and Mary Florence Clayton Ray, came to Nebraska in the early nineteen hundreds from Illinois. They located just north of Central City, where he helped break sod. They lived in an unpainted house which stood until after I was married. It was on the west side of the highway.

John and Molly, as she was called, had five children: Bertha, Jessie, Arnold, Rosa and Edgar. They all married and located in other parts of the country except Rosa. She married Frank Arthur Rowlett of Madison. They farmed in the northern part of Nebraska until 1929 at which time they moved to Palmer.

They had seven children: David, Lenora, Ida, Frankie, Robert, Ruby and Helen. David passed away in infancy and Ida at age twenty-one. Lenora married Rev. Virgil Booher, and, after pastoring in several states, they are now retired and living in Fleming, Colorado. They have eight children.

Frankie served in the U.S. Navy and the Sea Bees. After he left the service, he married Mary Louise Mathewson. They have one son. They are living in Oxnard, California.

Robert made the U.S. Army his career, and, upon retiring, he and his wife, Connie, and two sons live in Thornton, Colorado.

Ruby married Otto Schlueter and they live on their farm two miles southwest of Palmer. Otto has lived on that farm since 1918. He tells of how Bill and Curtis Weber built the barn by first putting down rocks and driving poles down in them. That barn is still standing! They have two daughters, Connie, who lives in Colorado and Patty, who is married to Glen Pederson. They have a business in St. Paul.

Helen married Wayne Peck and farmed out of Central City. Wayne was drowned at a Father's Day picnic, leaving two children, Larry and Vicki. Later, Helen married Elmer Blauhorn. They farmed about five miles east of Palmer. Elmer's uncle, Albert Blauhorn's father, bought the land and built the house for Albert and Minnie's wedding present. In 1964 Albert and Minnie retired to Central City, and Helen and Elmer moved onto their farm. Elmer adopted Larry and Vicki and he and Helen have one daughter, Dianne.

Larry and wife, Michele, and two daughters live in Grand Island. Vicki married Lee Jensen and they have a home in Archer. They have one son, Darrin. Dianne married Don Goedert and they live in Hastings. Helen and Elmer retired to Central City in 1980.

Frank's wife, Rosa, celebrated her ninetieth birthday on October 24, 1980. She is a resident of Coolidge Center in Palmer.

Several of John K. Ray's relatives are buried in the Prairie Creek Cemetery west of Central City. *Submitted by Lenora Booher*

GEORGE K. REEB

George Reeb was born in Germany on May 7, 1885. Keskastel, which was a part of Germany in the Alsace-Lorraine area, was his home. This area is now part of France. George was the son of Fritz/Fred Reeb and Katherine Reeb, who was born October 30, 1863. Katherine's maiden name was actually Reeb.

George came to the United States when he was



George K. and Edna Reeb — 1956

sixteen years old. He originally settled in Wisconsin and worked on a dairy. Because some of George's relation lived at Polk, he settled in this area. George Reeb changed his name to George K. Reeb, because there were many George Reebs in this area.

George's parents and sister, Katherine, remained in Germany. Little correspondence occurred. Katherine's husband was killed in World War I; and one of their children was killed when overrun by an army truck.

George met Edna Ann Reitz around Polk when she was teaching school. Edna was born on June 7, 1888, in Polk County. She was the daughter of Leonard Reitz (born on February 4, 1853, in Pennsylvania and died November 1926) and Ellamina Schaffer Reitz (born August 6, 1855, in Pennsylvania and died February 19, 1949), who were married May 20, 1877. Edna received her education in Polk County and Fremont College. They were married on October 3, 1908, in Polk County. They farmed in Polk County most of their life, three or four miles southeast of Havens, Nebraska. They spent many days in Merrick County with their daughter and family: Bill and Arnetta Gregg.

Four children were born to this union: Clara Ellamina (October 29, 1910), Frederick "Orville" (1912), George Alvin (March 22, 1918), and Elnora "Arnetta" (October 6, 1926). Clara died September 3, 1929; Orville died around 19 years of age, also.

In 1951 they moved to an acreage on the eastern edge of Stromsburg, Nebraska. George spoke German fluently and was especially good with math. He enjoyed reading westerns, dominoes, checkers, and playing pitch. He was a good hearted man and a good neighbor. On Mother's Day in 1953, George suffered a stroke. He had paralysis on one side his remaining years. On April 9, 1960, George died. The service was performed at the Osceola mortuary with burial in the Osceola Cemetery.

Edna was known as a seamstress in the community. She styled many wedding dresses for the young ladies. This skill occupied many of her hours before and after George's death. Edna's church was very important to her; she was a member of the Methodist Church in Stromsburg. Edna was a religious, self-sacrificing lady.

Edna would relate the time when Indians came to her parent's home and demanded her baby sister. Her mother finally convinced them to take some bread.

Edna died on January 5, 1975, at the Osceola Hospital. The service was conducted at the Osceola mortuary with burial in the Osceola Cemetery. *Submitted by Gail Gregg Ferris*

REECE FAMILY

Andrew D. Reece came with his wife Agnes Castleman Reece and their two children Cora, aged two years and Elmer, aged two months from Whitley County, Indiana in 1872.

They settled for a short time on a homestead about eight miles north east of the present town of Palmer which later became a part of the Dinsdale ranch.

In 1873 they moved to a farm six and one half miles north east of the present town of Palmer. This land is in the north end of Loup Township and

extends into Nance county to the Loup River. It was at one time a part of the Pawnee Indian Reservation.

In 1910 the part of the farm that was in Nance County was purchased by Elmer Reece, Andrew's oldest son. Here he built a house for his family and lived until 1941 when he moved to Palmer.

Several years later this farm was purchased by D.D. Dugger, where he presently lives with his family. He is the great grandson of Andrew and Agnes Reece.

In 1911 Andrew sold the remainder of his land and moved into a home in Palmer. This home is now used as the Church of Christ parsonage.

Andrew and Agnes lived in this home until his death in 1923. Agnes lived here until 1929 when she went to make her home with her son Elmer on the farm in Loup Valley. She made her home here until her death in 1937.

In addition to the two children, Cora and Elmer who came from Indiana with their parents, Andrew and Agnes Reece had three other children; Bell, Ruby and John.

Elmer married Mina Knapp and they lived in the Palmer vacinity until their deaths.

Cora married Howard Adams and moved as a bride to a ranch near Mountain Home, Idaho.

Belle married Lewis Knapp. They lived most of their married life in Holt county near O'Neill, Nebraska.

Ruby married Rhuben Stephenson and made their home in Sheridan, Wyoming.

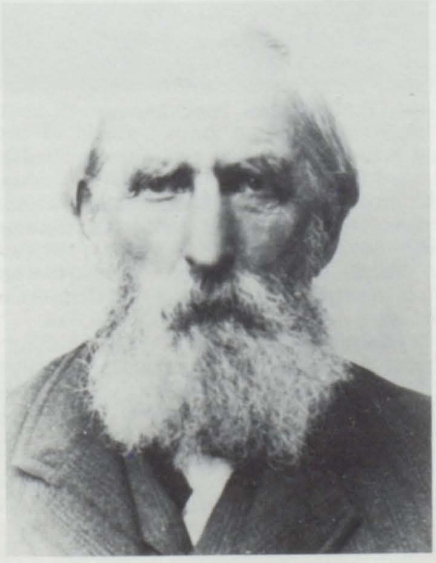
John served in the Navy in the First World War. He was married to Lillian Peck and later to Frieda Schultz. He lived many years in Omaha, Nebraska.

Direct descendants of Andrew and Agnes Reece who now live in the Loup Valley vicinity are: Etta Belle Dugger, daughter of Belle Reece Knapp: D.D. Dugger, Etta Belle's son; and D.D.'s son Robert Dugger. *Submitted by: Lois Smith, Evelyn Reece Daughters of Elmer Reece)*

HARLOW H. REED

Harlow H. Reed, the son of Roswell Reed and Eunice Case, was born May 2, 1823 at Hartford County, Connecticut. He was one of fifteen children. Harlow died March 24, 1908, at Crawford, Nebraska. His sons, Maurice and Eugene, brought his body back to Central City to be buried by his wife Fidelia S. Griffin, who was born October 8, 1829 at Hartford County, Connecticut. She passed away February 24, 1879 at Central City, Nebraska. The Reeds were united in marriage April 18, 1847. To this union were born ten children: William, Ella (Clark), Henry, Laura (Phelps), Augustus, Clarence, Maurice, Eugene, Alburtus, and Annettie (Moore).

In 1850, the Reed family moved from Connecticut to Ohio. Then in 1861, they moved to Michigan. When leaving Michigan, they took a boat at South Heaven, intending to land at Chicago, but an awful storm that swept the Great Lakes that night drove them out of their course until they were near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The next morning a number of boats were sunk and many lives lost in the storm. However, their boat landed safe and sound in Chicago the next day. The Reeds traveled from Chicago to Central City by means of rail. In October of 1872, they settled on Prairie Island.



Harlow H. Reed

Living in this new land was not without adventure. One incident concerned a tribe of Pawnees who were camped near their home. They came frequently to the Reeds sod house, begging. One old Indian often came just at breakfast time. He just walked in and sat down to the table, helping himself to the meal without being invited. On these occasions Nettie, Harlow's tenth child, a little girl, would get up abruptly from the table and run and crawl to the back of the top bunk, hiding until he was gone. This was probably due to the fact that the Indians often talked of trading ponies for her. Apparently they liked her very much, as they often brought Nettie beads, bead work, and trinkets.

Harlow was a cooper (making barrels by hand), and a millwright. The mill was operated by water power from the Platte River. Harlow's pay was mostly in terms of something to eat. Wages at this time were 50¢ a day, while flour was $8.00 a barrel, calico 25¢ to 50¢ a yard, and thread 18¢ a spool!

The Reed family can be traced back to 1565 in England. The first imigrant of the Reed family was Elias, who came to America around 1640. The original spelling of the name was Reade, and it became Reed in the early Colonial days in America. *Submitted by Bill Polzkill*

CLYDE REEDER FAMILY

Clyde V. Reeder was born July 18, 1881, and Lulu EvaMae Elliott was born February 22, 1879. They were married September 24, 1901, and lived in Cozad, Nebraska. They came to Merrick County when their children were quite small, and settled on a farm near Prairie Creek in Merrick County. Their four children attended a country school. They lived on various farms in Merrick County thru the years, and lived by Worms, Nebraska, until they moved to McMinnville, Oregon, in 1942. Their children were Gladys, born March 20, 1902. She married Jesse Raser September 21, 1922. They had 4 children and lived by Chapman, Nebraska. They moved to Denver, Colorado and later to Missoula, Montana where she passed away February 27, 1969.



Clyde and Lulu Reeder

Dorothy was born November 13, 1904. She married Stephen Wiser November 24, 1928. They had seven children and lived in Fullerton, Nebraska. They moved to Oregon in 1938. Dorothy passed away July 29, 1977.

Vernon had polio when he was about two years old. He overcame his handicap very well. He enjoyed playing golf. He was a bee keeper and clock and watch repairman. He had a watch repair shop in McMinnville, Oregon, until he passed away April 30, 1979.

Evelyn was born May 8, 1912. She graduated from Chapman High School in 1929. She attended college in Central City, Nebraska. She taught school near Palmer, Nebraska until she became ill. She passed away April 13, 1937.

Grandma & Grandpa Reeder each lived a long life. They enjoyed being with Dorothy and Vernon in Oregon. Grandpa passed away December 4, 1958, and Grandma passed away July 7, 1967. *Submitted by Verla Raser Nabity*

BARTON REEVES FAMILY

Barton Reeves was born on February 11th, 1925, to Wayne Reeves and Maude McHargue Reeves on a farm east of Central City. Barton was educated at District #37 School (Merrick County) and graduated from Central City High School in 1942. He has been engaged in farming since 1942 and in 1954, went into partnership farming with his brother, Gordon "Spud" Reeves.



Barton and Barbara Reeves Family

In 1945, Barton married Barbara Sheppard, daughter of Charles Sheppard and Ellen Hansen of Central City, Nebraska. Her father was a music teacher in Clarks, Nebraska public schools. Barbara graduated from Central City High School in 1942 and has been active all her life in the music field. Her brother, Charles "Pat" Sheppard, a 1937 graduate of Central City High School, is a professional musician in Omaha, Nebraska.

Barton and Barbara had three children, all born in Central City, educated at District #37 and graduated from Central City High School.

Their son, Michael was born in 1950, and is married to Deb Stufft, daughter of Jim Stufft and Ila Jean Butt Stufft. Her grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Otto Butt of Central City. Deb is a Lamaze (Childbirth) Instructor.

Mike is employed at Archer Agri-Services. He is a Vietnam war veteran and a graduate of Central Nebraska Technical College. They have two sons, James and Danny.

Marcia Reeves, born in 1953, is married to Michael Ferguson (a native of Clarks, Nebraska and son of Glen Ferguson and Rosemary Kahler Ferguson). Mike and Marcia live in Grand Island, Nebraska. Marcia is a graduate of Grand Island Beauty School. Mike Ferguson, a Vietnam Veteran, attended Kearney State College and is employed at the Veterans Hospital. They have two daughters, Michelle and Mandy Jo.

Diane Reeves, born in 1954, is married to Michael Samuelson of Palmer, Nebraska. Michael is the son of Bernard Samuelson and Thelma Pratt Samuelson. Diane is a graduate of Platte College of Nursing. Her husband is a graduate of Kearney State College, a veteran and is employed at the Nebraska Veterans Home and Radio Station KRGI. They have a son, Joshua, and a daughter, Rachael Ellen. *Submitted by Barbara Reeves*

JOHN REEVES FAMILY

The John Reeves family moved from Green County, Kentucky, to Merrick County in the year 1887. John Reeves was born in Green County, September 10, 1824. About 1850, he married Rachael Harriet Morrison in Green County. Their children were:

Isaam, September 22, 1852
George Robert, December 7, 1854
Elizabeth, April 27, 1856
Sibbie Ermine, January 22, 1858
Harriet M., July 16, 1860

Rachael died on August 4, 1860 and was buried in the Morrison Cemetery two miles from Mac, Kentucky, in Taylor County.

John Reeves second marriage was to Sarah Swigler of Taylor County, Kentucky. The date is not recorded. One child, Fielding Reeves, was born to this marriage on December 9, 1862. He died November 16, 1895 and is buried at Clarks, Nebraska. From the sketchy records, it appears that Sarah Swigler Reeves died at the birth of her child, Fielding Reeves.

John Reeves, at 39 years of age, married Margaret White Lee in Taylor County, Kentucky on June 10, 1863. She was twenty years old at that time. Margaret Lee claimed kinship with the family of Robert E. Lee. Attendants at their marriage were Jonathan and Sarah Lee, brother and sister of the bride. The minister was Rev. Tom Underwood. Margaret Lee was probably a woman with many talents. She had served as midwife in Kentucky, and again after moving to Nebraska.

Their children were:

Fannie Empress, March 20, 1864, married Pleas Gumm
Mary Logan, January 25, 1866, married Rolland Berry
Edmund Thomas, September 2, 1867, married Lizzie Stewart
John Coakley, January 5, 1869, married Helena Troh
Granville Monroe, March 24, 1872, married Lottie Everett
Nancy "Nannie" Jane, February 6, 1874, married George Everett
Lullie Emma, January 10, 1876, married Elmer Jewell
Shively Lee, March 15, 1878, married Lillie Rice
Lillie Ethel, May 18, 1880, married George Rice
Infant son, April 30, 1882, died at birth
Grover Cleveland, August 19, 1884, married Anna McMahon
Andy Keech, March 10, 1887, died 1894

G.R. Reeves, or Uncle Bob, was the first member of the Reeves family to come to Merrick County, Nebraska. He persuaded his father, John Reeves, and stepmother, Margaret, and their large family to leave Kentucky and move to Merrick County. This move was accomplished in the fall of 1887.

Harriet, the full sister of G.R. Reeves, came to Nebraska. She married Warren Gumm. Harriet died October 2, 1912, and is buried at St. Edward, Nebraska.

John Reeves died December 21, 1914. Margaret Reeves died April 10, 1919. Both are buried at Central City.

Margaret Lee Reeves proved to be a remarkable homemaker and neighbor. In addition to caring for her large family, there was a large number of relatives who needed her help and encouragement. A number of items from her home are preserved by her grandchildren. *Submitted by Ted C. Reeves*

JOHN COAKLEY REEVES

John Coakley Reeves was born in Green County, Kentucky, January 5, 1869. He came with his parents, John and Margaret Lee Reeves, to Merrick County in 1887. John Reeves had not had any formal education before coming to Merrick County, Nebraska. However, he attended District 37 parts of two school years after coming here. He developed a natural talent for trading in livestock, principally horses.

John Reeves married Helena Troh in Central City April 27, 1898. Helena Troh was born near Stettin, Germany, on November 7, 1875. She had come to Central City in 1887. Her parents were



Mr. and Mrs. John C. Reeves, Olga and Rose

Berthold and Emily Koenig Troh. They came from Germany to America in 1881. Helena Troh had completed her education in Central City schools. She had a vivid memory of the blizzard of 1888. Her father had come to the school for her, and they walked three-fourths mile home through the storm.

John and Helena Reeves spent the first year of their marriage near North Star in Nance County. They purchased a farm eight miles southwest of Central City and moved there in February of 1899. This farm had been homesteaded by a member of the Laub family. In this year, 1980, the farm is in the possession of the heirs of the Reeves family.

A family of five children was born at the farm home. Rose Ethel, born February 27, 1899, lived 35 years in Salem, Oregon; Olga Dorthea, born March 25, 1900, married Earl Tyler March 5, 1923, Denver, Colorado; Maude Myrtle, born September 11, 1901, married Clarence Green, died February 11, 1929; Faye Gladys, born August 17, 1903, married Leroy Manning May 12, 1925, Central City; Theodore Christian, born March 17, 1905, married Portia Marsh, December 24, 1929, Central City.

Rural School District #39 was located about 40 rods from the farm home. All five children were students at this school. From 1900 until 1915, a Union Sunday School and worship service were a part of community activity from this location. A Literary Society provided some social diversion and entertainment during these years.

John Reeves was killed in a railroad crossing accident August 30, 1909. The responsibility for raising the family was the burden of the mother, Helena Reeves. Transportation was a problem for the family through the years 1909 to 1920. In the early years, all travel was by team and buggy or a spring wagon. For sisters, Rose, eleven, and Olga, ten, to capture, harness, and stable the horses was an achievement. However by the time Ted was ten, he could handle horses and go to Chapman for supplies. After purchase of a Model T Ford, transportation became much easier.

The four children of Mrs. Helena Reeves offer tribute and appreciation to their mother for her care and positive influence in their lives. Useful lives lived in their respective communities are their contribution to good citizenship.

Helena Reeves died on October 8, 1940. John C. Reeves and Helena Reeves are buried in the Central City cemetery. *Submitted by Ted C. Reeves*

TED & PORTIA REEVES

Ted Reeves was born March 17, 1905, at the farm home of his parents, John C. and Helena Troh Reeves, the youngest of five children. His father lost his life in a train accident in 1909. Ted's education included attendance at rural District #39 and Chapman High School. A student of current events and widely read, he was largely self-educated.

On December 24, 1929, Ted and Portia Marsh were married at the home of her parents, Fred and Ivy Crites Marsh, near Archer. Portia attended District #23 and earned a degree from Nebraska Central College. On March 1, 1937, they moved to the Frank farm, where they presently reside.

In addition to the maintenance and successful operation of farming and ranching activities, Ted and Portia took an interest in community and civic affairs, as well as local and state government. Ted saw terms of service on the local school and extension boards. He served as a director on Mid-state Reclamation District for eight years. Appointed to the Nebraska Environmental Council in 1958, he served successive appointments until retiring in June, 1977. He was a member of Nebraska's Unicameral in 1963 and 1964.

Portia's great grandfather, Jason Parker, brought his family to Merrick County in 1859, the first family to become permanent residents of the County. Her maternal grandmother, Phebe Crites, was in charge of a pioneer postoffice, Bethel, in their home near what is now Archer. With a talent in music, Portia has been organist at the Chapman Baptist church for forty years. She has been a member of Merrick Foundation Board for three terms, president of Hospital Auxiliary, and active in extension work. Since the early 1960's, many young people have come to the Reeves home for beginning piano instruction.

Ted has a broad interest in collecting and preserving artifacts that relate to our past and current history. He is a collector of a wide range of primitives and antiques. Many of these items add to exhibits in Merrick County's Historical Museum. Ted and Portia have both been active in the maintenance and growth of the museum. Their interest in the authorship of Merrick County's History book is a goal which should serve as a tribute to Merrick County's pioneer settlers.



Mr. and Mrs. Ted C. Reeves

The Reeves raised four children. Don T. — born December 14, 1931, Virginia Helen — born August 27, 1934, Kay Kathleen — born May 21, 1937, and Ladd Marsh — born October 30, 1944. Their children were educated at District #39, Central City High School and the University of Nebraska.

After farming since 1956, Don is finishing a four-year term of service with Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington D.C., and will be returning to his farming operations in the fall of 1981. Virginia and husband, T.J. Fraser, are now located at Pawnee City, Nebraska, where he is Methodist minister. Kay Owens and husband, Edward, are living on the original Reeves place. She is a case worker for Nebraska Children's Home of Omaha. Ladd has taken over management of the home farm since Ted's retirement in 1979. *Submitted by Portia Reeves*

ROBERT REEVES FAMILY



Robert and Alnetta Reeves — 1977

I married Robert Reeves on May 21, 1941 and moved to the farm near where he had been born on December 25, 1918. His father, Charlie Reeves, had lived on the same farm. The house I now live in, since Bob's death in November 1978, was built by my husband's father, Charlie Reeves, in 1930. He was married to Susan May Price of Thayer, York County, Nebraska. After her death in January 1941, Charlie married Nettie Sporer Lindgreen in 1943, and they continued to live on this same farm until his death in February 1959. At Charlie's death our family moved to his house from the small house that we had lived in most of our marriage. Charlie Reeves was born in Merrick County on April 18, 1883 and had brothers, John, George and Wayne and sisters, Rae Croshaw, Mary McMillan, Jane Foglond and Hattie Reeves. Their parents came from Kentucky in 1880.

Our children are: Dorothy Ann (Mrs. Jerald Olson of Marquette, Nebraska), whose children are Wanda, Rhonda, William, Thomas, Deva, Jerri, and Karen; Richard Robert, who died at six months; Beverly Mae (Mrs. Doug Holm of Texas), whose children are Alan and Lee; Charles Evans, who farms and lives near the home place and has two sons, Jason and Nicklaus; Linda (Mrs. Alvin (Bub) Cordsen) who has moved the former Episcopalian Manse of Central City near the mouth of the Warm Slough on the home place, and has two sons, John and Cortland; and Dennis Wayne, who is serving in the United States Navy.

Robert's brothers and sisters are Charlotte (Mrs. Merwin Decker of Beatrice, Nebraska), Eric, who died of Polio in September, 1950, Benton of Central City and Cleveland, who died at birth.

I was born at North Star in Nance County to Joseph Evans Cundiff and Sarah Trifina Owens and lived in Nance County until my marriage. My mother's grandfather, James Bone, was a homesteader in Nance County. I graduated from high school at Fullerton, and at that time Normal Training was taught in the high school, and so I taught two years in the rural schools of Nance County before my marriage. *Submitted by Alnetta Reeves.*

ANNETTE GOSNELL REIMEL

Annette Gosnell Reimel was born October 23, 1894 to Thomas N. Gosnell and Clara Agusta Gosnell. With five sisters and one brother, she grew up in the Prairie Creek neighborhood and attended District #28 known as the Gosnell School. Her father had homesteaded in Prairie Creek.

She was graduated from the Central City High School in 1911. She attended Kearney State Teachers College several summers and taught during the school years in the grades of Osceola, Cozad and Loup City. Later she cared for her elderly father until his death in 1933. She then worked for a number of years for the Federal Land Bank in Omaha. In November 1940 she moved to Sacramento, California and married Oliver Reimel in January 1941. She worked for the Highway Dept. of the State of California for many years.

She died December 2, 1978 and is buried in Sacramento. *Submitted by Mary Elizabeth Shelton Hubbard*

HUGO REISENER FAMILY

Hugo George was born March 22, 1885 at Hagensville, Michigan. He was one of seven children of Fredrick and Sophia Reisener, who immigrated to this country from Holestine, Germany.

After grade school he attended telegrapher school in Cincinnati, Ohio. Upon graduation, he worked as agent-telegrapher for Union Pacific Rail Road for 54 years. He worked at Ames Tower, Tarnof, South Omaha, St. Edward, Humphrey, Hayland, and Chapman.

He married Sylvia Hopkins June 22, 1914, in Omaha. Of the eleven years at Hayland, Nebraska, their home was a converted box car for nine years, until they built their home.

Their children are: Luella (Grambau), Ossineke, Michigan; Delmar, Kansas City, Kansas; Ruth (Grimmett), Oroville, California; Ira, Clarks, Nebraska; Ralph, Washington, Iowa; and Eldon, Aurora, Nebraska. Thirteen grandchildren were born.

The family moved to Chapman in August, 1925, where Hugo was depot agent for thirty-six years until his retirement.

Hugo was an avid gardener and enlisted the help of Sylvia and children to can hundreds of jars of vegetables, raspberries, and fruit each year from their harvest. During the depression years their home was open and always welcomed neighborhood children and friends for parties.

After being a semi-invalid for several years, Sylvia passed away May 20, 1955, at the age of sixty-one years. Then Hugo turned his gardening talents toward growing gladiolas. At one time, he had thirty varieties, and gradually increased his plantings to 10,000 bulbs at intervals, so he could provide floral arrangements at several churches in Grand Island, Central City, and Chapman. His colorful glads found their way to many a hospital room, birthdays, and anniversary celebrations. Anyone that stopped by to see them, always went home with abundant garden produce and a bouquet. He spent many hours planting, digging, sorting bulbs and storing for winter, to repeat the process again next year.

Hugo was a member of the Chapman Methodist Church and the Union Pacific Old Timers Club.

When his health failed after retiring, he moved to Clarks in 1962 near the Ira and Eldon Reisener families. He passed away June 17, 1963. *Submitted by Betty Reisener*

IRA REISENER FAMILY

Ira Reisener was born December 4, 1924, at Hayland, Nebraska, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugo G. Reisener of Chapman. He attended grade and High School there. Following graduation in 1943, he was inducted into the Army of World War II and discharged in 1946. He returned to his job at the Farmer's Co-Op Elevator in Chapman, where he worked until moving to Clarks in 1960.

Betty (Green) Reisener was born November 29, 1924 on a farm between Chapman and Grand Island, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Green. She attended country school District #2 North and Chapman High School. After graduation, she attended the Grand Island Business College and worked as bookkeeper for the Co-Op Elevator in Chapman for two years.



Ira and Betty Reisener

In 1944, Ira and Betty Green were married and lived in Chapman following Ira's discharge from the Army. They have two daughters, Jane Winfield of Loup City, Nebraska, and Iris Hemmingsen of Grand Island, Nebraska. They have five grandsons and one granddaughter.

In 1960 Ira, Betty and daughters moved to Clarks, Nebraska. Ira was manager of the Clarks Co-Op Elevator for two years. He supervised the construction of the new concrete elevator in 1961.

In 1962, after a second heart attack and need for less responsibility, Ira became manager of Clarks Grain Company, following the death of manager, Dale Ross.

The Clarks Grain Company was built in 1958 by Asa A. Pollard, Jean R. Brown and Frank W. Schuldt. Ben Rempke was the first manager for five months followed by Dale Ross.

In 1967, Ira and Betty purchased the Clarks Grain Company. In February 1976, they purchased



Hugo Reisener Family

the Haven's Elevator from Roman Sock. In August 1979, they purchased the Osceola Feed Store from Mike McGuire of Columbus, Nebraska.

Betty worked for the Clarks Telephone Company for ten years.

Ira chalks up forty and one-half years on the volunteer Fire Dept. in Chapman and Clarks, from which he has retired. He is a member of the Town Board, of Clarks, The Merrick Foundation, VFW Post 4832 of Clarks and American Legion Post 6, in Central City, Nebraska.

Ira is an avid fisherman and enjoys hunting deer. The Reisener's make regular fishing trips with camper and boat to their favorite camp in Minnesota. In winter, Ira loads the camper with fellow fisherman, heading for the same camp to all enjoy a few days ice fishing. *Submitted by Betty Jane Reisener*

AUGUST RETZLAFF FAMILY

August Retzlaff, born in Germany in 1848, migrated to Wisconsin with his grandfather when August was a boy too young for German military service. In 1874, they moved again, by covered wagon and horse team, to a claim west of Archer on the banks of Prairie Slough. Here his first home, a sod house, was built. He married Anna Rudolf, born March 4, 1859, daughter of William and Louise Rudolf, on June 9, 1877. Later they moved to a home two miles away on Prairie Creek. Upon retirement, they moved into Archer. August died in 1929 and Anna in May, 1940. They are buried in the Archer Evangelical Community Cemetery.

They loved their God, and Anna was one of the charter members of Archer Zion United Methodist Church. Living a half mile from the church, their home was often open to circuit preachers, and occasional peddlers — to the delight of the kids. Anna loved her home and raised beautiful flowers. August liked good horses, and later in life raised prize chickens.

They were the parents of eleven children: Lydia (married Paul Bonness), Mary (Robert Wegner), Minnie (Gus Wegner), William (Meta Rudolf, Clara Miller), Charles (Emma Wegner), Emma, (died age 2), Anna (Frank Wegner), infant son, stillborn, Henry (Anna Rembolt), Martha, and George (Marie Hake). It is interesting to note that between the Retzlaff family and the August Wegner family, four couples were married. Only Martha and George are still living. *Marilyn (Retzlaff) Djernes*

CHARLES & EMMA RETZLAFF

Charles Henry Retzlaff was born May 1, 1886, in a soddy three miles west of Archer, the fifth child of August and Anna (Rudolf) Retzlaff. Things of his childhood which he would later recall were the scorching heat of the summer of 1894, skating to school at District #44, and hunting wild ducks. As a young man he loved playing baseball, and remembered when his team played against Grover Cleveland Alexander of St. Paul.

Emma Esther, seventh child of August and Amelia (Schellkopf) Wegner, was born October 13, 1887, near Archer. An excellent student, she eagerly learned what the rural school had to offer. After all available books had been covered at least twice, she ceased her formal education but continued to read and study her entire lifetime. She was an excellent storyteller, and made many Sunday School lessons a magic session.

Charles and Emma were married June 8, 1910, and established their first home west of Archer in the shadow of Zion Church, where both were lifelong members. Charles was on the cemetery board for many years, keeping the grounds neatly mowed and digging graves, sometimes in frozen dirt, for little more than a thankyou. At this home two of their children, Marilyn (Mrs. Edgar Djernes) and son, Oliver, were born.

In 1931 they moved to a farm east of Palmer where their son, August, was born. Later they retired to Palmer. Emma died January 27, 1961, and Charles on November 16, 1979. They rest in Rosehill Cemetery at Palmer.

They were quiet, unassuming people who lived close to God and nature. Charles had a deep love of the soil and was an excellent farmer. His farm near Archer had one of the earliest irrigation wells. He appreciated good horses, and they were his pride. He bought a few head of purebred hereford cattle as a young man, which he developed into a herd of quality cattle. Many farms in the area at one time or another had foundation stock from his herd, as the best bull and heifer calves were sold to them. Charles was an active exhibitor of horses, and later of cattle and corn at Merrick County Fair and other agricultural shows. Later, he loved to go see others show the club calves that came from his herd. *Marilyn (Retzlaff) Djernes*

ETHEL & DALE RIBBLE

Ethel was born to Henry and Ella Smith Stubbe June 3, 1920. Ethel attended District #37 school for eight years. The school was a one room school and the teacher had all eight grades and all subjects. Rosa Gillham, Alice Duffy and Esther Crites were some of the teachers. During the depression in the 1930's Ethel helped her brothers herd the cattle along the road. Her father had a dairy farm and every one worked where needed. One of her jobs was separating the milk. They had a DeLaval separator, and the one separating the milk had to wash the fifty-two discs night and morning. This was a year round job that was done every day before and after school. Ethel went to Central City High School, graduating in 1937. In 1939 she started beauty school at Hastings Beauty Acadamy graduating in January 1941. She bought Pearl's Beauty Shop from Ellen Barton in October 1941.



Ethel and Dale Ribble

Ethel married Dale Ribble August 2, 1942. Dale was born March 6, 1907 to Minnie and Mark Ribble at Cambridge, Nebraska. He moved to the Chapman Community and went to school at District #48 near Chapman. He attended the Grand Island High School. He and his brother LeMoine spent several years in Pontiac, Michigan. He came back to Central City in 1940. He married Ethel Stubbe. They have three children: Larry, a baseball coach at Millard High School; Ralph, manager of Hep Hardings Sporting Goods Store in Grand Island and Elizabeth Ann Rimpley who lives in Denver, Colorado.

Dale worked for Construction for twenty-five years and they still live in Central City in the same house they started living in when married. Ethel is still operating the beauty shop in her home. She has made a multitude of friends during the years from 1941 to the present. *Submitted by Ethel Ribble*

MARK J. RIBBLE FAMILY

Mark J. Ribble was born February 19, 1880, at Mendota, Illinois. He attended school in Illinois. As a young man he worked for Burlington Railroad in Wymore, Nebraska. He then worked as a drayman for Lawrence Mick, at Liberty, Nebraska where he met Minnie A. Mick. Minnie was born November 29, 1887, at Greenwood, Nebraska. She and Mark were married July 1, 1906, at Burchard, Nebraska. They moved to Cambridge, Nebraska, and farmed there for one year. Their first child, Dale C., was born March 6, 1907. They leased forty acres of irrigated land at Gering, Nebraska, and left Cambridge with two wagons and six horses. Mark worked at riasing sugar beets, and hauled brick for Sorensen Brick Kilns. Mark L., a second son, was born May 9, 1911. They moved to Merrick County and leased the farm now owned by Onon Simonson at Worms, Nebraska Le Moine L. was born on this farm July 28, 1918. Dr. Triplett assisted his birth. They then moved to a farm nine miles west of Chapman, where Dorothy A. was born January 22, 1922. Dr. Triplett assisted her birth. In 1923, they had a farm sale and moved into Chapman where Mark Sr. became agent for B & L Oil Company which was later bought by Continental Oil. Mark worked for them at a filling station and ran the tankwagon until 1937. They then moved to Central City, and Mark ran a tankwagon for Neil & Winbolt. In 1942, they moved to Denver, Colorado. Both Minnie and Mark worked for General Services Administration until their deaths. Minnie passed away February 23, 1954, at age sixty-six. Mark J. passed away May 30, 1955, at age seventy-five.

Dale married Ethel Stubbe, and they live in Central City. They have three children. Mark Jr. married Frances Olsen, and they lived in the vicinity of Ogallala until his death, May 8, 1974. They have three children. Le Moine married Ida Mae Adams and they live in Denver, Colorado. They have four children. Dorothy married Dal Shields and they live in San Diego, California. They have three children. *Submitted by Ethel Ribble*



Mark and Minnie Ribble — 1953

ANDREW RICE

Andrew Rice, a prominent Merrick County farmer, son of John and Elizabeth (Eckert) Rice was born in Baltic, Ohio, April 27, 1861 and died June 20, 1930. He was the second in a family of four children; one sister, Catherine, and two brothers, John and Fred.

On March 5, 1885, Mr Rice married Mary Elizabeth Hahn (Born in Baltic, Ohio October 27, 1866 — died May 10, 1934). In the same month they came west to Nebraska, locating in Lancaster County for one year. They then went to Otoe County where he purchased a farm near Palmyra and lived there for eleven years. In the Spring of 1897 he sold this farm and came to Merrick County purchasing a farm southeast of Archer where they lived until January 1909. He sold this and bought a farm ten miles west of Central City from Harshbergers known as the "Home Ranch." They resided here until he retired from farming in 1916 and moved to Central City where he and his wife spent their later years. He was a successful man interested in the welfare of his state and county.

Mr. and Mrs. Rice had eight children:

Clyde December 5, 1885 — January 22, 1924



Andrew Rice Family — **Back l-r** — Clyde, Dexter, Melvin, Andy, Lillian. **Front** — Andrew Sr., Ernest, Florence, Elizabeth, Vira.

Dexter December 23, 1886 — July 27, 1963
Lillian February 19, 1888 — July 12, 1951
Melven April 28, 1889 — May 12, 1974
Andrew December 11, 1890 — August 17, 1957
Vira April 4, 1893 — January 19, 1973
Ernest 1895 — November 1918
Florence March 4, 1900 — August 26, 1974

The family farm has remained in the Rice family and is presently being farmed by Michael Rice, the great grandson of Andrew. *Submitted by Harry Rice*

EARL RICE FAMILY

Earl Rice was born December 12, 1916, the third of five children born to Kathryn Demel Rice and Clyde Rice. His father passed away when Earl was seven, and his mother remained on the family farm north of the Prairie Creek Baptist (known as the Woodpecker Church) near Archer where, with her sons and the help of a hired man, they continued with the farming operation. He attended District #44 school and District #26 through eighth grade.

In 1935, Earl was in Civilian Conservation Corp. at Fullerton, Hardington, Nebraska and Presho, South Dakota. On August 4, 1941, he went into the Service. He was sent to Australia and New Guinea with the Army Corp. of Engineers, arriving there February 2, 1942, where he served under General MacArthur. The purpose of his division was to build bridges and roads. He recalls that they were shelled or bombed almost every night when the moon was very bright. They referred to this as the "Tojo Moon." Earl tells one frightening story of when an eleven-foot Python snake took up residence in his tent! He says one of the best meals he had in the service was when he and some buddies shot a wild turkey and boiled it in a large tin flour can. Food rations were scarce, and they thought how good it would taste to have some bread to eat with their turkey stew. Some Australian fellows passed by and stopped to watch, and then left, returning in a short while with arms laden with loaves of bread from a bakery they worked at. In 1945, Earl was discharged and returned to the States where he settled in Hamburg, Iowa, and began work for Interstate Nurseries.

On October 29, 1947, he married Delia Rose Fullington formerly of Central City, Nebraska, who was working as a sales-clerk at Hess Variety Store in Hamburg. Delia had come to Iowa to spend several weeks with her sister & family (Mrs. Edna Belle) and she decided to remain there and finish her education, graduating from Hamburg High School in 1943. They have remained in Hamburg throughout their married life. They are the parents of a son, Clyde Edwin, born in 1957. He is the owner of Rice Construction Company at Hamburg. Earl has worked the past fifteen years for Missouri Beef Packing Company in Phelps, Missouri, and plans to retire in January, 1982. Dee has worked twenty-four years at American Meter Plant in Nebraska City. The family enjoys many sports and hobbies. Most all of their spare time is spent fishing or hunting, and Clyde is involved in the current sport of "mud drags."

Earl's mother, Kate, who was in Bethesda Care Center at Central City, passed away in July of 1980.

The Rices enjoy returning to Central City for family gatherings, and have seldom missed the family Christmas and the July 4th get-to-gether at the home of Dee's sister and brother-in-law, Inez and Adrian Erickson's home. Their Fourth of July visits were always looked forward to with anxious anticipation by the young nieces and nephews, as they brought with them huge boxes of fireworks to be enjoyed by the young and old alike. *by Mr. & Mrs. Earl Rice*



Clyde, Dee and Earl Rice

EUGENE & MARY RICE

Eugene and Mary Dorr Rice, with their three children, came to Nebraska from lower Michigan, by emmigrant train in the year of 1885. They settled on Section 30, three miles north of Chapman.

Mary's father, Peter Dorr, had come from Michigan in 1876 to take the original homestead, but died before the "proving" of the homestead was completed.

Eugene filed for a Timber Claim and completed the necessary steps to obtain the land.

Eugene and Mary were prominent in the development of the Chapman and Prairie Creek communities. The three children, Lena (Mrs. Will Mess), Guy James, and Glen were very small when they left their home in Michigan. Roy, Floyd, Mamie and Vernon were born in Nebraska. All members of the family made their home in central Nebraska, except Mamie who moved to Oregon.

Eugene farmed until age and poor health caused them to move into Chapman in 1920, where they lived until Mary's death in 1932. Eugene then made his home with his son Vernon and family until his death in 1944.

The "home" place was farmed by Floyd for several years. They moved to the Clarks community, and Glen's family occupied the original home. They farmed the land until Vernon Rice purchased the farm and it is still owned by his wife, Edna. The land is being farmed by their grandson, Russell. *Submitted by Mrs. Jaspar Rice*

GUY & EDITH RICE

Guy J. Rice, oldest son of Eugene and Mary Rice, and Edith Blanche Betsworth, daughter of Jasper and Margaret Betsworth, were married at the bride's home on December 22, 1908.

The Betsworth family had moved to Merrick County from LaMars, Iowa. They lived on the farm 2½ miles east of the old Prairie Creek church site. Edith was the oldest daughter of the Betsworths. Her family moved to Oregon soon after she was married, and the new bride often felt rather lonely with her parents, three sisters, and one brother so far away.

Their first home was in Central City, but in a very short time they had moved to the Chapman community and established their home on the Eugene Rice homestead.

Their son, Jasper, was born August 15, 1910. Guy purchased the land belonging to the late Henry Meyer. Their two-room home was moved to the present building site on Section 30-13-7, where they lived the rest of their married life.

Improvements were made on the farm, and eighty acres of the original Rice homestead was purchased.

Guy and Edith were very active members of the Prairie Creek Baptist Church. Guy served as superintendent of the Sunday School for many years, and Edith was a fine Sunday School teacher. They were members there until 1930 when they transferred their membership to the Chapman Baptist Church, where they continued to work diligently.

Both were active in community affairs, and gave much of their time to various civic organizations. Most of all, they had time to be good neighbors and friends.

Edith suffered a severe stroke in August of 1960, and was confined to a wheel chair for seven years. During this time, Guy cared for her faithfully until



Mr. and Mrs. Guy Rice

she passed away in February of 1967.

During this time the farm operation was turned over to his son, Jasper, and grandson, Richard.

Guy lived on the farm and spent every possible moment in his yard and garden. He was truly a lover of the land, and often referred to his garden as his "heaven."

After a severe illness in November of 1973, it seemed best for him to make his home with Jasper and wife. They cared for him until he died in September of 1975.

Thus closes the history of the second generation of the Rice family in Merrick County.

The farm is now owned by Jasper, and farmed by Russell Rice. *Submitted by Mrs. Jasper Rice*

JASPER & IOLA RICE

Jasper Eugene, son of Guy J. and Edith Rice, and Iola Corcilius, daughter of Will and Hester Corcilius, were married on June 30, 1935. The wedding was held at the home of the bride's parents, with relatives as guests. The Rev. C.W. Thomas performed the ceremony. The bride's sister, Lucile, and Walter G. Grosjean were the only attendants. Vocal music was provided by Don Lutes.

Their first home was in Central City. Jasper was employed by Fishback Produce — earning a livable wage of $15.00 per week. After three months, the produce company closed out the business in Central City, and the new Rice family was without work.

In the 1930's this was a serious matter and with the help of parents, they managed until Jasper found work in Grand Island with the Fairmont Creamery Company. By November, they were located in Grand Island where they lived until 1945.

Two children were born in Grand Island — Richard Dale (October 10, 1938) and Janice Lucile (December 23, 1943).

In the fall of 1945, Iola's father's health failed and the family moved to the Corcilius farm, near Chapman. The children attended school in the old District #3 school, known to some as Rose Valley School. Incidentally, this was the same school in which Iola had received her elementary education.

Prior to her marriage, Iola had taught school for 3 years, and in 1959 she resumed her teaching career and taught in rural schools of Merrick County until 1967 when she came to the Chapman School system and taught first and second grades. She retired in 1978.

The family moved to the present home in Chapman in 1959. Jasper continued to farm, and had added the Guy Rice farm to his operation at this time. They were now operating under Rice & Son, as Richard had become a partner in the farm business.

Jasper retired from farming in 1977. Since retirement, Jasper and Iola have continued to be active in the Baptist Church. They have done a little traveling, and enjoy camping in areas near home. Jasper has served on the village board for a number of years, and the last 11 years as mayor. If reasonable good health continues, they look forward to living and serving in the Merrick County area for many years.

Their son, Richard, is married to Virginia Salmon of Aurora. They live on the former Corcilius farm. They have two boys, Dale Eugene, age seventeen, and Dean William, age thirteen.

Their daughter, Janice, is married to Dennis Walker of Detroit, Michigan. They live in Chapman and have two daughters, Karis Lucile, age sixteen and Sona Rae, age fourteen.

This is a brief history of members of a third generation of the Rice Family. With a son and two grandsons, they look forward to completion of a fourth and fifth generation in Merrick County. *Submitted by Jasper and Iola Rice*

ROBERT E. RICE

Grandfather W.H.C. Rice owned an interest in the Central City Republican newspaper; his three sons learned the printer's trade early. Two of the boys, Will and Robert went on to make their marks as newspapermen. Robert Enos Rice, my uncle, attended Annapolis and graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1912. Uncle Will was editor and publisher of the paper at the time Robert purchased



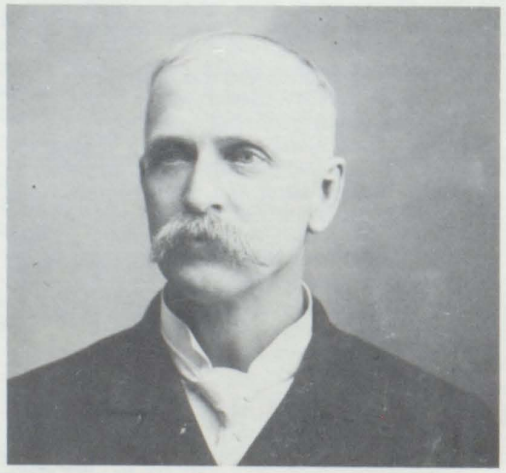
Robert E. Rice

it in 1913. Robert used his position as editor to promote and serve the best interests of this city and state, making the Republican one of the finest weekly papers in Nebraska. He served his community in many capacities, even as postmaster for a short time, was president of the Lions' Club and of the Commercial Club, was a city councilman, vestryman in the Episcopal Church, and a Mason. He had a brilliant mind and a fine wit that appeared in his conversations as well as his writings.

In 1917, he married Edna Watterworth of Glencoe, Ontario, Canada. Though not blessed with children, their married life was happy and content. In later years, Aunt Edna accompanied him to the printing office where she gradually had to assume his duties because of his failing health. Before and after his passing in 1945, Aunt Edna kept the business going when newsprint, supplies and repairs were hard to come by. She saw to the moving of the Republican office from above Locke's Drug Store, and could be justly proud of her accomplishment. However, her sense of loyalty to her husband's lifework took her best efforts and strength. She was a capable business woman and well-appreicated for her courage and sense of responsibility to the community. She passed away in 1949. *Submitted by Mary Hord Limke*

W.H.C. RICE FAMILY

The prominent role William Harlow Corbin Rice filled in early Merrick County showed unfailing loyalty to his trust. He came to Central City in 1883, and filled the offices of County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Attorney, and County Judge in due time, becoming one of those pioneers to whose efforts so much of the growth and expansion of Merrick County is due. I am proud to say he was my grandfather. Having served in the Civil War and



W. H. C. Rice

completed his studies at the University of Michigan Law College, he came from Michigan to Grand Island with his parents, brothers and sister in 1871 by covered wagon. The family homesteaded in Vieregg Township, just to the east of the Hall —Merrick County line. William H.C. Rice married Margaret Anna Doherty in 1876. She had come with her brother, Robert, to Canada from Ireland on a sailing ship at age eight. Robert Doherty was ordained an Episcopal clergyman; he served as rector of St. Stephen's in Grand Island; his sister kept house for him and taught school. The young Rices lived on their homestead of 400 acres near District #32 school, where Grandfather taught English to the children of the German immigrants who mostly lived in that area, and continued his law work in Grand Island. After winning county office, the family moved to Central City. Six children graced this marriage: Mary Rice Ratcliff; Margaret Rice; W.H.C. Jr., later of Arkansas; Rve. John D. Rice, later of Oregon; my mother Nell Rice Hord, and Robert Rice. Education was always very important in the Rice family. Each child attained college, and as adults, each contributed much to the betterment of this community through church and civic life. *Submitted by Mary Hord Limke*

JAMES ALLEN RICHARDS



Laurence and Margaret (Richards) Caldwell

James Allen Richards was born in Tama County, Iowa May 11, 1876, to Isaiah A. and Emily Jane Crouse Richards.

They came to Merrick County, Nebraska when Allen was nine years old. His brothers Bert, Charles, and Wes, and sister, Margaret, were in the family.

Allen graduated from Central City High School with the class of 1896 and started teaching school.

He married Lily Jane Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Moore on August 22, 1900. Four children were born to them: Raymond E., Ralph W., Harold L., and Dorothy M.

Shortly after this they moved to Paisley, Oregon, where Allen took a homestead. During this time he was Superintendent of Schools in Paisley and New Pine Creek. Their fifth child, Margaret L., was born in New Pine Creek.

In 1916, they returned to Central City where Allen taught school, worked at Eoff's Department Store and S.A. Foster Lumber Company. The family all graduated from C.C.H.S.

Raymond died at age two.

Ralph married Margery Towle and had three children: James, Robert (deceased), Mary Ann. He taught in Nebraska and Colorado. He was a coach and superintendent.

Harold married Letha Miller. They had one child. He taught in Nebraska, fought in World War II, then returned and taught in Wyoming as coach and principal.

Dorothy married John H. Coon and they had one son, George. She died in childbirth.

Margaret married Lawrence Caldwell, and had three children: Dorothy, Judith, and Larry. She taught at Purdum and Broken Bow.

After Lily died, Allen came to live with Margaret and family in Purdum. He then moved to Broken Bow with them, where he died in 1959.

The family remembers the years in Central City with great fondness. *Submitted by Margaret Richards Caldwell*

E.A. (DOC) RICHARDSON

E.A. (DOC) RICHARDSON, was born at Shedd's Corner, New York. He came to Nebraska with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A.N. Richardson, brothers and sisters (except one who married a doctor and lived in Buffalo, New York until her death). Mrs. Ed Hartwell was his youngest sister. She met Ed while visiting E.A., who was a pharmacist in Clarks, Nebraska. Grandfather Richardson's claim was issued to him after the Civil War. It was northeast of Grand Island. He lived at Eagle, New York before then — town abandoned since the war.

"Doc" married Adna Caroline Durkee. They had three children: Marian, who married Fred Carlton Ayer of Omaha; Laura Ida ("Toot"), who married Harry Thompson of Wyoming; and Austin, who married an English teacher from Chicago. All his children are dead. "Toot" died in 1979 at the age of 90 in Laramie, Wyoming. She and her husband had lived on a ranch near Daniel, Wyoming.

Doc had to have an arm amputated in 1900 and died shortly afterward. His widow lived to a ripe old age.

(Note: According to the 1882 Andreas — Nebraska History, in the Clarks Biographical Sketches:

"E.A. RICHARDSON, druggist and Postmaster, was born in Wyoming County, N.Y., in 1871; came to Grand Island, Neb.; there engaged in the drug business; sold out this business in 1877; came to Clarks and established this business; July, 1880, he was apointed Postmaster. Mr. R. is Treasurer of the School Board."



Richardson Stone
Clarks Cemetery

The following comes from the Richardson stone, in the Clarks, Nebraska Cemetery: AUSTIN N. RICHARDSON, DIED, SEPTEMBER 24, 1889, AGED, 72 YEARS; LAURA A. RICHARDSON, DIED, JUNE 17, 1897, AGED, 84 YEARS; MYRA E. KENDALL, DAU. OF A.N. & L.A. RICHARDSON, DIED, JULY 6, 1910, AGED, 64 YEARS; E.A. RICHARDSON, DIED, MAY 19, 1900, AGED, 51 YEARS. — *Submitted by Gladys Hartwell and Thomas E. Kelly*

IRA & JANE RICHMOND

Ira Clark and Jane Aldrich Richmond came from Brighton, Ontario, Canada, to Michigan and then to Nebraska locating in Clarksville in the spring of 1872. Their children Susan, Martha, Cyrus, Delilah, Vilora, Samuel and Eliza accompanied them. While the family lived in Clarksville, Phoebe (1875), Jessie (1877), and June (1879) were born.

Daughters, Martha Elnor married Robert Mory Cole, and Delilah Jane married Robert's younger brother, Samuel James Cole.

Eliza Matura married Arthur P. Lindburg 19 June 1889 at Clarks and they made their home at Stromsburg, Nebraska. They are buried in the Stromsburg Cemetery.

Ira was a livery stable keeper in Clarksville until he and his wife moved to Idaho, Washington area. Ira died 12 December 1918 in Seattle with burial in Lake View Cemetery, Seattle, Washington.

The roots of Ira Clark Richmond whose parents were Cyrus C. Richmond and Mary Ally have been traced to the year 1040 and Roaldus Musard de Richmond who accompanied William the Conqueror into England in the Battle of Hastings. For this endeavor ancestors were given land in Yorkshire by the King. These Richmond ancestors were Lords of the Manor and Constables of Richmond Castle.

Col. John Richmond was the first ancestor to come to America in about 1635 and it was he that had traced the family tree in a lineal descent to King Edward I.

Four books have been written on the history of the Richmond Family and the authenticity of this history has been documented.

Ronda J. Glasser, great granddaughter of Robert Mory and Martha Elnor Richmond Cole is the youngest descendant, twenty-eighth in line from Roaldus, of the Richmond Family living in Merrick County. *Submitted by Dorothy Glasser*

WARREN RIGGS FAMILY

Warren H. Riggs, son of Henry and Mary Burgan Riggs, was born on October 13, 1881, in Madison County, Iowa. He received his basic education in Iowa and spent some years studying pre-medicine and pre-law. In 1908 he moved to St. Edward, Nebraska, and then to Archer, where he was in the mercantile business.

In 1911, Warren Riggs and Ella Wegner were married. Their four children were all born and raised in Merrick County, graduating from high school in Central City. They are: Naomi Clary of Lewellen, Nebraska, Rhoda Edlund of Lakewood, Colorado and Rosemary Wilson and Orval W. Riggs, now both deceased.

Warren served as County Clerk of Merrick County. During World War I he served on the Selective Service Board, Alien Property Custodian, Home Guard, and later served as County Judge from 1926 to 1937. He then established an Abstract of Title office and was Sales Representative for LeFebure Corporation of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

My parents celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in 1961. Warren retired in 1963.

They were loyal church members, serving in the Methodist Church many more than fifty years. We, like them, credit the training we received in the home for our religious concerns.

Warren passed away in 1966, shortly after they moved to Lewellen to be near my husband, Oren, and myself. Mother now has lived in the Garden County Nursing Home at Oshkosh for twelve years. She is happy that she can still sing alto in the church services at the Home.



Mr. and Mrs. Warren Riggs

I am sure the fondest memories my parents had were of the happy and eventful years they spent with their relatives and friends in Merrick County. Now, Mother is ninety-one, with six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, who are devoted to her. *Submitted by Naomi Riggs Clary*

RINKE-NICOLAS

It was back in 1938. My sister and husband (Evelyn and Lawrence) lived on a farm near Clarks, Nebraska. Hired help was hard to find, so when a man drove in their yard looking for work, they hired him to help with the harvest.

It had rained the night before, so there was not too much to do until it was dry enough.

He said he would wash their car, a "36 Chevy. He finished just in time for dinner. He complimented her meal of homemade bread, fried chicken, fresh peas from the garden and new potatoes.

Then he said he needed to shave and he went out to his car to get his razor. When he returned he had a gun, which he pointed right at them. He asked for the car keys and when her husband was slow to hand them to him, he shot down at his feet and said, "Hurry it up. Now both of you get outside."

My sister said, "But our baby boy is sleeping in the bedroom, can't I get him first?"

"Well, ya, but hurry." He followed them to the bedroom, then forced them all out the door to the cave. It had a slanted door. He drove his car on top of it; then they heard him drive away in their car.

Her husband used a two-by-four from a partition in the cellar to pry a small opening, so he could crawl out. He ran to the phone, but the lines were cut.

He then ran to the neighbors for help, but of course by that time, the thief was too long gone. The sheriff could not find him or the car, and never did!

The car that he drove in their yard that morning was stolen from South Dakota and was returned, but their car was never recovered or the man.

They were thankful that they were not harmed in the ordeal.

Lawrence Rinke and his wife, Evelyn Nicolas Rinke lived west of Clarks on the south side of the road on the farm owned by Joe Nicolas, Evelyn's father. This location is now the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Wruble.

Lawrence and Evelyn lived on the farm for about five years and then moved to Bellwood, Nebraska, where they lived their remaining years. *Submitted by Marie Rinke*

DR. E.L. ROBINSON FAMILY

Dr. E.L. Robinson, a pioneer Nebraska physician and pharmacist, settled at Osceola, Nebraska, near Merrick County in 1878. He was born in Brookville, Iowa, in 1851. Dr. Robinson received his medical and pharmical degree from P & S College, Keokuck, Iowa, in 1875. In 1901 he took further training at the medical college in St. Louis, Missouri. His doctor's license was the 507th issued in Nebraska.

There were two Dr. Robinson's in Merrick County at one time. The other doctor had a daughter named Elizabeth. They were no relation to Dr. E.L. Robinson.

Dr. Robinson practiced medicine in the state for forty-two years. Thirty-seven of those years were in Merrick County. He practiced at Silver Creek, Gibbon, Clarks (where they built a large home), Oakdale, and Ithaca. He practiced medicine for many, many years in Central City. He conducted a pharmacy for twenty years in conjunction with his medical practice.

Dr. Robinson retired in 1922, and remained in Central City four years. In 1926, he and Mrs. Robinson moved to an acreage at Lincoln, Nebraska, to be closer to their sons. Ray was living in Lincoln, and Ralph in Fairbury.

Dr. Robinson met and married Anna Bell Harris of Silver Creek in 1879. She was born in 1856 in Athens, Ohio, the youngest child of William and Prudence Harris. The Harris family homesteaded near Silver Creek.

Dr. and Mrs. Robinson were charter members of the Methodist Church in Central City. He was a member of the Central City School Board, serving as secretary for ten years. He was City and County Physician for Central City and Merrick County for

a few years, and was active in the YMCA. Mrs. Robinson was a member of the Auxiliary Ladies' Drum and Bugle Corps. Until about 1947, she spent several weeks every summer in Silver Creek visiting "The Widow's Club."

Dr. and Mrs. Robinson celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1929, at their son's home in Fairbury. All their children attended.

The couple had three sons, all born in Central City, and an adopted daughter. Herrey was born in 1881; died in the 1960's. Ralph, called Robby or Bob, was born in 1883 and died in 1969. Raymond was born in 1890 and died in 1980. Algie was adopted at age ten and died in 1960. The couple also raised Dr. Robinson's sister's three boys: B.B. Combs, C.R. Combs, and Tinley Combs. There seems to be no information on what became of the boys' parents, but they homesteaded near Central City in the late 1800's.

Dr. Robinson passed away in 1933. Mrs. Robinson then made her home with Ray and Mable. She passed away in 1949. Both are buried in Lincoln.

I am the granddaughter of Dr. and Mrs. Robinson and the daughter of Ralph and Dot Robinson. *Submitted by Jean Roush*

RALPH ROBINSON FAMILY

Ralph, called Robby or Bob, was born in 1883, in Central City, Nebraska, the son of Dr. and Mrs. E.L. Robinson. He married Dot Porter, daughter of Walt Porter, in 1909.

Both were graduated from Central City High School. Ralph enrolled in the UniAg College of Nebraska. A case of rheumatic fever forced him to give up his schooling. On recovery he opened an ice cream store in the corner of Tooley's Drug Store. His machine was in the window.

Later he started an ice cream plant behind the drug store, facing the tracks. Phillip Duffey had a cream station beside the ice cream plant. All the cream and milk for the ice cream plant was purchased from Phil. Both businesses were doing very well. About 1917, Fairmont Cream Company came to them and offered to buy them out at a stated price. If they wouldn't sell Fairmont said they'd come into town and break them. Ralph sold out but Phil didn't. Phil did finally go broke, losing several farms, his home, etc. Even back then your big business ran things.

Ralph then went into Dodge Brother's and Chevrolet Motor Cars. At this time, right after World War I, tractors were just being introduced. For every so many cars you received, you had to take so many tractors. Farmers were not interested yet, so Ralph went broke at that. Big Business, again!

In 1921 Ralph and Dot purchased an ice cream business in Fairbury, Nebraska. It was known as R.I.C.H. Ice Cream for Robinson Ice Cream House. He continued in the business until he retired in 1965. In 1930 he purchased a local dairy business, insuring his cream and milk supply. He passed away in 1969.

Dot never got over being homesick for Central City. Much to my displeasure, Mother and we three children spent most every summer in a cabin at Riverside Park.

Dot attended the University of Nebraska, graduating in 1908. While there, she attended the Military Ball at West Point Academy. She taught the eighth grade in Central City. Dot was engaged to Roy Norton of Central City for eight years, then turned around and married Ralph. As she once put it, "I danced my way through life!" She did, she really enjoyed life. Both she and Ralph did many kind deeds for people during the Depression of 1930. She passed away in 1978.

The couple had three children, all born in Central City. Robert, born 1910, is a retired Colonel in the United States Air Force. Jean, born in 1914, is a retired teacher and wife. Richard was born in 1920, and is a retired Major in the United States Air Force.

Passed down from both the Robinson and Porter ancestors was the motto: "There is some good in everybody, and if you can't say something good about someone, say nothing at all."

The Porter and Robinson pioneer decendants all left the Central City area with the moving of Dot and Ralph in 1920.



Dot Porter

Written by the daughter of Dot and Ralph, a granddaughter of Dr. and Mrs. E.L. Robinson and "Walt" and Mrs. Porter. *Submitted by Dorothy Jean Robinson Roush*

ROBINSON-SCARBOROUGH

Charles H. Robinson (born November, 1851, died May 25, 1934) was married December 6, 1871, to Teresa M. Scarborough (born November 4, 1856, died November 2, 1900). Around 1890, they came to the Palmer area by covered wagon from LaPorte, Indiana. Charles Robinson moved into Palmer and was custodian of the Methodist Church prior to his death. The following is a list of children born to this couple:

Lucy Carolyn Robinson (April 3, 1874 to December 8, 1951) married December 18, 1893 to Sweigel Breiner (d. 1928),

James Henry Robinson (May 19, 1876 to June 19, 1946) married February 28, 1904, to Louisa Katherine Nehls (January 26, 1884 to March 22, 1942),

Mary Ann Robinson (May 25, 1878 to April 9, 1886),

Theresa Marie Robinson (January 12, 1880 to January 2, 1973) married September 22, 1897 to Albert Breiner (November 7, 1875 to April 8, 1928),

Thomas Scarborough Robinson (February 28, 1882 to April 13, 1949) married December 29, 1909 to Ethel Randell (July 15, 1882 to June 8, 1974),

Anna Drusilla May Robinson (May 31, 1885 to February 27, 1971) married March 16, 1910, to Pearl Linderman (March 5, 1888 to April 18, 1965),

Charles Hamler Robinson (March 30, 1888 to 1977) married July 17, 1917, to Nora May Smith (June 27, 1895 to 1978),

Ethel Irene Robinson (May 5, 1893 to July 16, 1972) married January 10, 1912, to Fred Linderman (June 30, 1890 to May 19, 1960),

Vernon Frank Robinson (August 18, 1895 to June 11, 1951) married January 16, 1920, to Emma Marie Kuiper (born May 20, 1901),

Veronica Cace Robinson (January 16, 1899 to October 30, 1969). *Submitted by Mrs. A.P. Campbell*

RODEWALD-McCLURE

Glenn (Cheesey) was born November 9, 1908 to Charles and Lena Restler Rodewald in Spring Valley, Wisconsin. He went through the eighth grade then worked in a bakery. Later he went to a dairy school in Madison, Wisconsin and graduated in 1927. He came to Central City to work at the Beatrice Creamery as the first cheese maker and continued until they quit making cheese here.

He married Lucille McClure May 22, 1929 in Madison, Nebraska. To this union were born two children, Nadine and Gary.

Glenn made butter in the Co-op Creamery in Central City and pasturized milk and had a route of his own. He worked on the road for Wally Moore with a photo machine, and later built a machine for himself called True Tone. The family used it for many years.

Glenn farmed north of Central City two years then moved west of Central City, and sold out in 1942. After his father died he went back to Spring Valley, Wisconsin where he made cheese one year then came back to Central City. He was on the fire department at the Ordinance Plant and helped with their big fire. He worked for T.B. Hord and was on the Volunteer Fire Department in Central City until he went to manage the Hord Elevator in Chapman.

In 1959 he left Chapman and joined the Credit Corporation of Evanston, Illinois. He worked as Federal Grain Inspector-at-large out of Mitchell, South Dakota.

Glenn Rodewald was killed at Greeley, Nebraska in an auto accident December 5, 1968. He is buried in the Rose Lawn Cemetery in Grand Island.

Lucille was born January 20, 1909 to Irvin and Dorothy Halsey McClure and still lives in Central City. Lucille worked at Woody's Cafe as cook when it opened and since has worked in many different cafes.



Glenn and Lucille Rodewald

Glen and Lucille's daughter, Nadine, was born May 3, 1930 and married Merlin Guilford. They have four children, Carla Fowler, Myla Thompson, and twins, Kevin and KoAnn.

Gary was born October 12, 1938. He married Sandy Boyle February 6, 1959. They have two sons, Kelly and Kyle and a daughter, Cary Dee who died a few months after birth. *Submitted by Mrs. Glenn Rodewald*

ROSE-CLARK

Our grandparents, George Albert and Sarah Pitt Rose, immigrated from England to Allegany County, New York. From there, by rail, they came to Central City. To this union was born Edith (Eldridge), Emma (Fouts) and George Albert, Jr. Grandfather Rose was a carpenter and helped build many of the original stores and homes in Central City. Grandmother Rose had a millinery and dressmaking shop in her home.

George Albert and Florence Ann Clark were married in Illinois after grandfather Clark was discharged from the Union Army. He took a government claim in Merrick County and they came by wagon train to their claim northwest of Central City, to what was then called Poverty Ridge. Grand-

father Clark helped build the original Fairview Methodist Church. To them were born Ernest and Lela Belle Clark.

From these families, George Albert Rose married Lela Belle Clark. Our father was a printer and worked for the Fitch Brothers many years. Later, he became a carpenter. In 1915, when the new high school was built, he served as custodian until his death.

To this union was born:

Mildred (deceased), married Earl DeHart and lived in Central City. She taught 3rd grade in the Central City School; *Nellie* (deceased), married Elmer Elm of Genoa, Nebraska. She taught school in Merrick County; *Georgiana Marcum*, now living in Oceanside, California, taught school in Merrick and Hamilton Counties; *Gilbert* (deceased), married Irene Gibson. While still in high school he worked at the Ford Garage. During the depression, he owned the Ford Garage at St. Paul, then returned to Central City and became a partner with Roy McCullough in the Central City Ford Garage. Later, he moved, with his family, to Anaheim, California and lived there until his death; *Helen* married Robert Richardson and lived on a farm near Hordville until his death in 1958, later moving to California. In 1966, she married George Porter, who recently passed away. Helen is now living in Oceanside; *Bernard* married Irene Bottorf of Grand Island. He worked at the Ford Garage in Central City until moving to Corpus Christi, Texas, where they still reside; *Clifford* married Winifred Smith of Omaha. They have just returned from a trip to New Zealand and the South Pacific, celebrating their 50th anniversary. Clifford was associated with Ford Motor Co. He purchased the Ford dealership in Aurora, Nebraska in 1946, selling out and buying the Lincoln-Mercury dealership in Hastings, Nebraska in 1948. Now retired, they live in Tempe, Arizona; *Forrest* married Gwen Evans, of Kansas. He worked in the automobile business many years and now is a real estate broker in Hastings, Nebraska.

We all have fond memories of our "growing-up" years in Central City and we all graduated from C.C.H.S. *Submitted by Georgiana Marcum and Helen Porter*

FRANK ROSE FAMILY

Frank Rose came to Nebraska from St. Lawrence County, New York, at the age of two with his parents and his two sisters, Myra and Cora. He arrived on October 11, 1872. His parents homesteaded a farm located one mile north and three-fourth mile west of the Pleasant Hill school, near Clarks.

The family's first home was a small dugout about sixteen foot square. Approximately four foot of this structure was underground, with a crude framework above, which was partially banked with dirt for extra warmth. The roof was made of poles, covered with straw and dirt. The floor was dirt, part of which was covered with planks.

During this first year, Frank's father, Ben, made a living for his family by making yokes for oxen and ax handles, and by repairing wagons for early settlers. He made all wooden parts for the wagons except for hubs. In time, he became friends with the Indians, who then let him have all the wood that he needed for making these things. Some years later, he operated a cheese factory.



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rose

Frank had a faint memory of the April Blizzard of 1873, which started on the 14th and lasted for three days. The following summer the county was infested by grasshoppers, completely destroying all vegetation. He also remembered seeing the Pawnee Indians migrate across the section south of his home when he was just a small boy.

Frank and his sisters were privileged to receive some education at the "Pleasant Hill" School. The blizzard of 1888, which he remembered very well, occurred during his school years. His mother was his teacher at this time.

On December 15, 1891, he married Lelia Wilson of Clarks. She had also come to Nebraska as a child from Sparta, Illinois.

They raised a family of eight children: Walter (deceased), Ralph (deceased), Ernest (deceased), Clarence (deceased), Mabel (Mrs. Leslie Black) of Lincoln, Wilbur (deceased), Effie (Mrs. Cheney Shelton) of Central City, and Alice Mae (Mrs. Gerald Galusha) of Lincoln. The family attended the Pierce Chapel Methodist Church, and enjoyed making musical contributions both at church and at community affairs.

They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1941 with an open house in their home. All of their children were in attendance. Frank died on December 27, 1943, at his home where he had spent all but the first two years of his life. Lelia died on October 10, 1944. Their years together had been made up of much happiness, as well as many hardships and some sorrow. *Submitted by Rose A. Holmes (Granddaughter)*

GILBERT ROSE FAMILY

Benjamin Clark and his wife, Maria Baxter, left their home in Somersetshire County, England, in 1835 and settled in Rochester, New York. They went West in 1840 to Iroquis, Illinois, where they farmed. Eleven children were born, five dying of typhoid fever. Two sons were volunteers in the Civil War. The surviving son, George A., returned to Illinois in 1865, married Florence Ann Strickler, and brought his bride, parents, and two brothers to Lone Tree, Nebraska. In 1871, George homesteaded 160 acres five miles north of Central City. On his land, purchased for $26.00, he built a 12′ x 16′ frame house with one door and two windows. It had board floors, a shingle roof, and was lathed plastered. He cultivated 60 acres, built a stable, had a drive pump, and set out four to five thousand trees. In 1893, he moved to Central City and engaged in the hardware business for about three years. He was a Charter Member of the Fairview Methodist Episcopal Churches, helped organize school district #18, was a City School Board member, member of G.A.R., and charter member of the Masons.

My grandmother, Lela Belle Clark, was the youngest of George's two children. Lela married George Albert Rose in 1894. George Rose was born in New York, 1866. His parents had come from England in 1857 and migrated to Lone Tree in 1873 where his father was a farmer and carpenter; mother Sarah, had a millinery store 1874-1882. Young George was a printer with Fitch Brothers Printing Company for 30 years and then did carpentry work. He died of a heart attack while working on the W.A. McCullough ranch. Lela and George were members of the Presbyterian Church. They had 11 children — 8 survived: Mildred, Nellie, Gilbert, Georgiana, Helen, Bernard, Clifford, and Forest. All graduated from Central City High.

My father was Gilbert E. Rose, known to most as "Gib." Gib spent most of his life in Central City. He started work for Lee & McCullough Ford Garage November 11, 1918, and owned Ford Garages in Palmer and St. Paul. He sold the Central City agency in 1956 to semi-retire in Anaheim, California. Gib and Irene Gibson were married in 1924. Irene taught school in rural Merrick County and was employed by George J. Eoff & Sons, and Trotter's Variety Store. Gib died in 1963 and was returned to his native Central City. Irene lives in Anaheim, California. Their son, Gil, Jr., lives in Anaheim and owns Rose Auto Parts. He has three married children.



Gilbert and Irene Rose — 1923 on Platte River Bridge

My husband, Richard Heuck, is an Administrator, Los Angeles County Probation Department. We have three teen-age children.

An amusing 1922 Cornhusker newspaper item: "Gilbert Rose, Joe Lindley and Bernard Parker narrowly escaped death while enjoying a lark on the frozen surface of the Platte River in a Ford. They had been driving up and down the river, making quick turns and allowing their car to skid on the ice, when suddenly the car dropped into a hole. They jumped just as the back end of the car went down, and landed on a floating cake of ice. Skaters rushed to the rescue." *Submitted by Beverly J. Rose Heuck*

DR. BRUCE L. ROSS

When Dr. Ross graduated from the Kirksville College of Osteopathy, Kirksville, Missouri, in 1921, he came to Nebraska to select a town in which to locate and chose Central City. His sister, Dr. Nelle, joined him in the office, and his mother and sister Bertha came to live with them. Dr. Nelle later moved to Junction City, Kansas. Bertha was a piano teacher.

Dr. Ross and his sisters were all born in Waukon, Iowa, to Alexis Harold and Rosa Leah Stern Ross. Their father died when the children were very young, and the family moved out to David City, Nebraska, where they had relatives. When he grew older, Bruce worked at several occupations in different locations and was in the Army in World War I, being discharged as a Sergeant in the Medical Corps.

Dr. Ross was very active in the Methodist Church, being Sunday School Superintendent and a teacher for many years. He sang in the choir for many years and served a term as chairman of the church board. He was County Chairman of the Heart Fund and Chairman of the Red Cross, and for several years served on the Central City School Board.

He was a member of all the Masonic bodies and the Shrine and Eastern Star. At the time of his death, he held the Jordan Medal for having the oldest membership in the Central City Masonic Lodge. At two different periods he was a Boy Scout leader.

Dr. Ross and Marian Tooley were married in her parents' home June 26, 1927. They celebrated their



Marian (Tooley) and Bruce Ross

golden wedding with a family dinner at Merrick Manor where they were residing on June 26, 1977. The couple had two children, Robert Bruce Ross and Joyce Detter, and five grandchildren. Dr. Ross passed away September 2, 1979. *Submitted by Mrs. Marian Ross*

ELMER E. & MAUD ROSS

Elmer E. Ross was born March 15, 1870, in Appanoose County, Iowa, and came to Merrick County with his parents in 1886.

He attended Nebraska Central College in 1888 and 1889, then taught a country school near Clarks for one year, followed by attending the University of Iowa College of Law from 1891 to 1893, where he graduated at the top of his class.

Following graduation, he opened an office in Clarks, was elected as County Attorney in 1894 and then moved to Central City, where he continued the practice until his death in 1934. He was a succesful write-in candidate for election to the 1920 Constitutional Convention, and served with distinction in that body.



Elmer and Maud Ross

He married Maud A. Scott on June 12, 1901, and to this union were born five daughters, Elma (Mrs. Hugh) Beall, Esther (Mrs. Donald F.) Sampson, Mildred Nuss, Eugenie Moravec, and Virginia (Mrs. John H.) Hutchings.

Professionally, Elmer Ross was outstanding, being known for his thoroughness in his knowledge of the law. He was a physically very active man and financially successful. He had numerous real estate holdings, was President of the Chapman State Bank and the Citizen's State Bank at Archer, and operated a farming, livestock and feeding operation in partnership with a tenant at the time of his death.

Mr. & Mrs. Ross were strong supporters of the Presbyterian Church, and of community affairs. He was never known to turn down a request for a contribution to any charitable or community solicitation. Elmer Ross was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite and Shrine, and Mrs. Ross was a member of Eastern Star and P.E.O. They built the house at 2225-16th Ave. as their home in 1916.

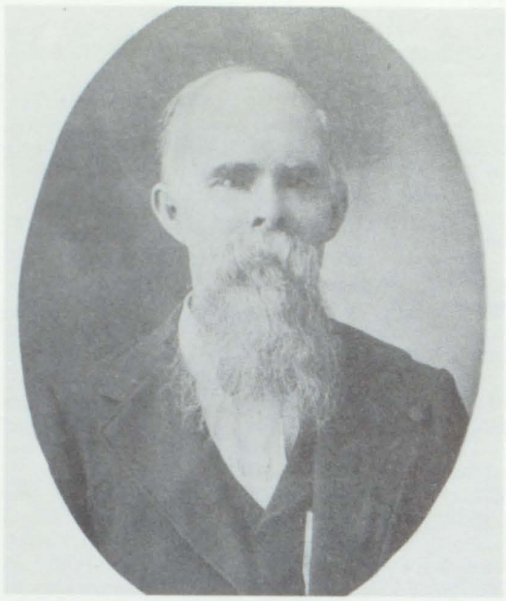
Elmer Ross passed away on June 15, 1934, and Maud Ross on April 18, 1970.

JAMES & EUGENIE ROSS

James Ross was born July 8, 1837, in Coshocton County, Ohio. His father died when he was thirteen, and he moved to Fairfield, Iowa, with his mother. He was one of the first to enlist in the Union Army, served under Grant and Sherman, saw action in several severe battles, and was severely wounded on two occasions. On his discharge, he returned to Fairfield, Iowa.

On December 29, 1864, he was united in marriage with Eugenie Groe, a native of Nancy, France, who had been an orphan since the age of five. They subsequently moved to Appanoose and Page counties in Iowa, and then to a farm just southeast of Hastings, Nebraska.

In 1886, they moved to Merrick County and located on the SW¼ 10-14-5 which they had purchased in 1883, just north of the viaduct at the junction of Highways #30 and #92. Mr. Ross planted a row of cottonwood trees along the drive to the buildings, most of which survived for more than eighty years.



James Ross

They were the parents of four children: Alonzo "Lon", who was a partner in the firm of Ross, Cowgill & Hart Hardware & Plumbing, now operated by McIlnay & Company, Elmer E., a prominent lawyer in Central City, Mary "Marie" Combs, and Laura Cowgill. Their children grew to maturity on the farm.

They sold the farm in 1905, had moved to Central City, and Mr. Ross passed away on April 27, 1917, and Mrs. Ross on November 20, 1930.

KENNETH H. ROSS FAMILY

I was born November 10, 1926, in Central City. My parents were Frank and Ruby Chrisp. Both my paternal grandparents, William and Bina Chrisp, and my maternal grandparents, Milton and Alta McCollister lived in Central City. I have one sister, Alice (Brandes) and one brother, David. I graduated from C.C. High School in 1944. 1944 was also the year I married Kenneth Ross, son of Herman and Elnora Ross. He was born and grew up at Stockham, Nebraska and his background was that of farm people who were Germans from Russia. Ken has two sisters, Arlene and Maxine, and one brother, Eugene.

Shortly after our marriage Ken served eighteen months in the army. We moved to Eldorado, Nebraska in 1947, where Ken was engaged in farming, an occupation he truly loved. A daughter, Kendy Marie, and two sons, Jerel Lynn, and Kim Allen, were born at Hastings during these years.

In 1954 we left Clay County and came to Central City where we looked forward to living on an irrigated farm north of Central City. Michele Ann, joined the family in 1958. The school house stood in the corner of our farm yard and Ken served on the school board several years.

By 1962 our dream of owning our own farm seemed beyond attainment and together a decision was made to change professions. Ken became a Farm Bureau Insurance Agent, as he still is. The move to town was made to an acreage northwest of town accompanied by three 4-H hogs, three horses, two cats and a farm dog named Happy. The children had acquired their Dad's love of farming and animals, and found it difficult to make the break.

People have always interested Ken, and his new job gave him contact with both farm and town families. Then, as now, he would come home and tell me, "I met the most interesting, nicest people today!"

We built our home in the south part of Central City in 1972. Ken served one year as President of the Chamber of Commerce and eight years on the City Council. We are members of the United Methodist church, have been Sunday School teachers and Ken was on the Board of Trustees for four years. I am an original Director of the Lone Tree Literary Society.

Yard and garden work was Ken's way of filling spare time and we always had beautiful yards wherever we lived. My interests are geneology, angel figurines, and bridge. Together we like cooking, dancing, and being with good friends, and family.

Our older daughter, Kendy Kuhn, lives in Grand Island and is a real estate agent after having been a secretary for twelve years. Jerel, married Kathy Lambe, has a son Troy and a daughter Tracy. They live at St. Libory, and he works at New Holland Manufacturing, and trains horses. Kim married Diana Glatter, has a daughter Heidi, and a son Aaron. He is a foreman with Foxly Farm and Cattle Company at Bartlett, Nebraska. Michele married Larry Reeves, is a dental assistant, and lives at Clatonia, Nebraska. Larry is a student at UNL.

There is no place in the world we would rather live, work, raise a family, and grow old than in this part of the beautiful Platte Valley. We do indeed believe in Nebraska, the Good Life, and especially in Merrick County!! *Submitted by Lola Chrisp Ross*

OLIVER ROSS FAMILY

Oliver Perry Ross was born February 18, 1860, in Illinois to Thomas Taylor Ross and Eleanor (Sedam) Ross.

When a small boy he came to Cass County, Nebraska, then later to Polk County. On July 19, 1880 he married Mathilda Christina Rystrom at York, Nebraska. She was born December 20, 1861 in Asa Soken, Kronbergland Sweden. Her father and sister came to America in 1868. After earning enough money for their passage, he sent for his wife and six other children, including Mathilda, who was eight. They arrived in 1869.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross farmed in various places; Polk County, Clarks, north of the Loup River and finally a mile south west of Palmer. In 1916 they moved into Palmer. Their children were: Eva Lena (Mrs. Art Gillham 4-27-1881; Edward E. 9-3-1882; Earl Arthur 1-2-1884; Esther Alma (Mrs. Perry Gage) 12-14-1886; Bert Alfred 11-10-1891.

Like most pioneer families, the Ross' saw many lean years.

Ever since I can remember both of my grandparents suffered poor health. In spite of that, they struggled to take care of themselves with a flock of chickens, a cow (later a goat) and a good sized garden. I have seen Grandpa hoeing potatoes with a hoe in one hand and a crutch under the other arm.

He enjoyed fishing in his later years. Some of his fishing companions were "Dad" Beyer, "Old Man" Reece, and Jarvey Newman. Oliver Ross died September 12, 1933. Mathilda Ross, died April 2, 1934. They are buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Palmer, Nebraska. *Submitted by Lula Gram*

ROUMPF FAMILY

August Roumpf was one of seven children in the Fred Roumpf family. Fred Roumpf fought for his country in 1868 during the reign of German Kaiser William I. He crossed the ocean in 1869 and was married to Minna Bliemeyer at Matteson, Cook County.

August Roumpf married Margaret Mae McDaniel July 30, 1907 at Wahoo, Nebraska. Her father was James McDaniel and he was born in Georgia. Her mother was Katherine Hentges, born in Albany, New York.

The family moved to a farm at Pleasantdale, Nebraska sixteen miles west of Lincoln in 1916. The four boys were born near Morse Bluff, Nebraska between 1908 and 1919. They moved to the McDaniel farm three and one-half miles west of Clarks, Nebraska in 1918. Then in 1922, they moved to the Henry Abel farm five and one-half miles southwest of Clarks, and back to the McDaniel farm in 1927.

George Roumpf and Delia's family are Gene Benjamin and boys; Claude and Bonnie Mathiason and family; Ray and Mary Lou Knutson and family. There are eleven grandchildren in this family. The children all live in the Hartington, Nebraska area.

Raymond Roumpf, the second son of August and Margaret, died in 1941. His wife Dorothy (nee



Mr. and Mrs. August Roumpf, Sr.

Baird) and he had three children; Keith, Jean and Galen. Keith, a minister, lives in the Chicago area with his wife Ardyce and their three children. Jean and her husband, Robert Soares, live in Omaha with their five children. Galen and his three children live in Albuquerque, New Mexico where he works as head chemist for the water department. Dorothy married Roy Mills in 1953. Dr. Ed Kuncel's wife is the only member left of his family.

Lawrence Roumpf, the third son of August and Margaret, attended Hastings College and graduated in 1941 with a B.A. He married Maxine Young on August 31, 1943, then served a four year parish in Stanford, Montana. Maxine died in 1946. Lawrence then married Betty Chadsey of Beaumont, California on August 3, 1947. They moved to Hamilton, Montana where their first daughter, Margaret was born. Following their move to Quincy, Washington, their second daughter Judith Lois was born. Margaret and her husband, Wayne Blake, now live in Salem, Oregon and Judy is in Portland, Oregon.

August Roumpf, the youngest son of August and Margaret, lives with his wife, Eleanor in Omaha, Nebraska. Lois, his oldest daughter, and her husband, Larry Mason, live in Central City. They have nine children and three grandchildren. Monte, and his wife Betty, live with their family in Des Moines, Iowa. Roger, and his wife Marcia, live in Nebraska City, Nebraska where he heads the police department. Dan, the youngest of August, Jr's four children, lives in Hastings, Nebraska. He takes care of the books for various trucking firms. There are seventeen grandchildren and three great grandchildren in August Roumpf Jr.'s family. *Typed by Jean Soares*

RUBEN—HALL—MATTSON

Oscar Ruben was born in Ronneby, Sweden in 1865, the son of Olaf and Celia Ruben, and came to America when a small child. He was the oldest of four children. They came to Merrick County from Chicago in the early 1890's and acquired considerable land holdings in Merrick and Hamilton counties. Some of this land was later known as Hord Ranch. In the late 1890's, Oscar returned to Chicago where he and his father were in the decorating business and also had a grocery store. Several years later, he returned to Nebraska.

Meda Hall, the daughter of Thomas and Martha (Laub) Hall, was born in Bishop Hill, Illinois in 1870. The Halls came to Merrick County soon afterward, where two more children were born: a son, Stacy, and a daughter, Mildred.

The Thomas Halls were the owners of the "Chapman House", the name given to the hotel which still stands on main street. The Rubens managed the hotel for many years and served meals in the hotel dining room.

Oscar and Meda met in Chapman and were married in Chicago in 1900. Five children were born to this union: Theodore, Osborne, and Constance, and twin sons who died in infancy.

Ted was born in 1901 in Chicago. The family soon after returned to Chapman permanently. After his schooling, he worked for several years in the Farmer's store in Chapman. He was married to Alma Kiskalt in 1934 and started farming on the Stockinger farm, later moving to the Kiskalt farm. Several years later they moved to Grand Island where Ted was employed as a brakeman for the Union Pacific until his death of a heart attack in 1964. They had two children, Elaine and Virgil. Ted was an avid sports fan, and for many years was the catcher on the Chapman baseball team.

Osborne was born in 1908 in the old hotel building in Chapman. He graduated from Chapman High School and Nebraska Central College. He was married to Mary Sinsel in 1939. Their married life began in Firth, Nebraska, where Osborne taught in the high school. Later, they moved to Chapman where he was superintendent of schools. He taught in several schools in the area until his death in 1970 of a heart attack. Their children are Sally, Douglas, and William. Osborne was active in community affairs and served in many capacities in the Chapman Baptist church. Mary died in 1963, both are buried in the Chapman Cemetery.

Constance was born in 1910 in the house now owned by the Merithews. Except for two years spent in Chicago following her mother's death, she has lived in Chapman her entire life. In 1939, she was married to Harry Mattson and they moved to the farm north-east of Chapman where they have resided for fourty-two years. They have three children, Thomas, Richard, and Jeanne. For many years the Mattsons have been interested in flower gardening, and many friends make annual summer visits to see the blooms. Both the Mattsons are active in the Chapman Baptist church. *Submitted by Mrs. Harry Mattson*

THE RUDOLF FAMILY

Slowly they came across the ocean, making their way to a new life in a new country. The wars and unrest in their homeland led them to leave Prussia and seek a peaceful way of life. The United States became the new home of many persons bearing the Rudolf surname. Three families came to make their homes in Merrick County.

In the early 1870's, they began their trek into the county. Wilhelm and Frederick Rudolf came to Merrick County after a brief stay in Wisconsin. In 1874, Wilhelm Rudolf filed for his Homestead. In 1882, a Friedrig and Carl Rudolf filed in Loup Township.

Soon three maidens came, sisters and cousins of these gentlemen. Through the 1880's and 1890's, they were joined by perhaps two dozen relatives who had heard of this great land. They became a part of the German settlement of Loup Township.

The gently rolling hills were lush with the prairie grasses. It was great for grazing their cattle. Milk cows produced heavily. Some of the sod was broken to provide a place for growing small grains and gardens. These people had to be largely self-sufficient. Some sorghum was grown for molasses used in their cooking. The wives often worked beside their husbands to make a living for their families. They shocked grain and husked corn. They helped in the hay fields, climbing often to the highest point to look toward home to see if a prairie fire might be threatening the children left in the care of an older daughter.

Few trees grew anywhere except along the Loup and Platte Rivers. There were willows along Prairie Creek, and wild plum. Wood for heating their homes had to be hauled many miles. Dried cow chips often had to take the place of wood in short supply. Prairie grass also was used. A bunch of it was gathered together, twisted and tied. It made a hot fire and burned fairly long.

These were religious people who came to this new country to live their lives in peace and worship their God as they chose. They became part of the Evangelical Mission, being members of the Zion Evangelical Church. Here they worshipped the Lord, thanking him for their good fortune, asking his blessing on their families. I remember the Sunday School picnics, a tradition with this German Settlement. They often were held on the 4th of July. Homemade ice cream, turned in 5 gallon freezers, and lemonade made with fresh lemons were treats for that day, and of course "old fashioned" fireworks.

By 1917 there were perhaps a dozen Rudolf fathers raising their families in this community. In 1917 this settlement began to build new Zion Evangelical Church. When World War I began, the work was discontinued until the war was over. That church was a landmark that could be seen for miles.

Among those Rudolfs who came to Merrick County were: William Frederick and Louise and their children, Minnie, Anna, Gustav, William, Bertha and Amelia. His brother and wife, Fredrick and Henrietta and their children: Theresa, Herman, Carl, Mary Augusta and Louise.

Also the Karl Rudolf family, Phillipine, his wife, and William, Anne, Augusta, Carl, Otto (my grandfather), Frank, Mary, Emil and Paul.
Submitted by Aileen Rudolf Rawlings



Zion Evangelical Church Sunday School Picnic — about 1912

ALBERT RUDOLF FAMILY

Albert and Esther Rudolf were born of German immigrant parents whose parents were among the early settlers of Merrick County. Albert attended school in District #58 and was an excellent student. Esther attended a school south of Archer. Both were taught German in their schools until the practice was discontinued because of German uprisings in Europe. These people in Merrick County no longer felt comfortable holding onto their Germany heritage. Those times passed, and the people of Merrick County found that they could be proud of their origin without fear of oppression.



Albert and Esther Rudolf — 1955

Albert Rudolf was born in Merrick County on December 29, 1905, the son of Otto and Bertha Rudolf. Esther was born in Rock County, June 23, 1912, the daughter of Adolf and Anna Zlomke. She moved to Merrick County with her parents when she was three years old. Al (as he was better known) and Esther were married at St. Paul, Nebraska, October 22, 1930.

Dad was a fun loving guy always pulling harmless little pranks on friends. One of his favorite stunts when a youngster was when Highway 92 ran past their home. When friends would come to visit, the boys would take an old suitcase, tie a string onto it and lay it on the highway. Passing motorists would see it and back the car up to get it. In the meantime, the boys would pull it off the road and the motorist would be dumbfounded.

Dad's second love was baseball. Every Sunday afternoon all summer long would find him on the ball field. He played with either a Palmer or an Archer team, and for many years was a part of the Sherman-Howard League. "Gus" Rudolf and Lafe Gilmont were always there, too. On the sidelines you would see many of the other Rudolf men, as all were fans of this sport.

Dad liked kids and was always ready to help them out he drove a schoolbus for the Palmer school system for many years. Many of the children have fond memories of rides on "his bus".

He liked raising Shetland ponies, but raised them mostly for the enjoyment of his children and grandchildren. He made a gift of a pony to each family before he passed away, the victim of cancer.

When he made a trip to town, he always had time for a game of pool or snooker with his friends.

Mom was an excellent cook. Sundays at her house were a real treat, for she always had good food to tempt us. She cooked in the cafeteria of the Palmer school for several years. She was an immaculate housekeeper, always busy doing something, and singing while she worked.

There were five children born to them. Shirley, the youngest, died shortly after birth. Ralph is the only one who remained in Merrick County. He lives on the west county line. After attending Kearney State College, Wayne moved to Hastings where he worked for Weyerhauser until he went into business for himself in a Western Wear store. He married Loretta Olsufka of St. Paul, and they have four daughters. Their sons died in infancy. Gary married Sandra Smith of Palmer. They have a son, Brad, and a daughter, Tracie, and live in Iowa. I married Jack Rawlings of Archer. *Submitted by Aileen Rudolf Rawlings*

ARTHUR & EDNA RUDOLF

Arthur Fredrick Rudolf was born September 16, 1905, near Archer, Nebraska, to Carl and Emilia (Ostreick) Rudolf. He received his education and spent his entire life in Merrick County. He attended what was known as "Stove Poker" rural school.

His parents were natives of Germany and came to Nebraska in the early 1800's. There were three children in the family: his sister, Martha, who died in infancy in Germany; his brother, Otto, who died at age 16, a victim of diabetes; and Arthur.

Arthur farmed with his father until 1950 when his father died. He took over the management of the farm raising cattle, hogs, corn, wheat, oats and alfalfa. Chores consisted of milking, feeding horses, cattle, chickens; wood and cobs needed to be carried in. The wood pile had to be replenished every year. There was much to keep one busy but chores were always finished before dark. Much of this was before REA came to farms.

Edna Zlomke was born April 4, 1908, near Duff, Nebraska, in Rock County to Adolf and Anna (Faber) Zlomke.

Her parents were born in Germany and came to America at an early age with their respective families. Her mother worked as a hired girl to help her parents financially. She learned the English language. She had only a fifth grade education, but was good at keeping records, reading and could write fine letters to her children.

Edna's parents were married and homesteaded in Rock County where they raised their family of four sons and nine daughters. This homestead was thirty-five miles from the nearest town. It was called "The Bloody" (and is still) because an Indian battle had been fought there. Another piece of land was called "The Skull"; a human skull had been found there.

Because they were so far from town, the store at Duff met many needs of the settlers. The village had the grocery store, post office, black smith shop, bank and creamery. Church services were held in the schoolhouse. Food, such as dried fruits, was ordered in large quantities from a mail order house as was most of their clothing.

Being so far from town and doctor, neighbor ladies served as midwives for each other when giving birth. Their need for each other established close bonds of friendship.

In 1915, the parents and younger children moved to a farm south of Archer. There Edna grew up; received her education at District #26, Central City High School and Nebraska Central College. She taught two years in District #38.

Arthur Rudolf and Edna Zlomke were married June 16, 1930. Both are past fifty year members of Zion United Methodist Church of Archer. They farmed his parents' farm north of Archer until 1966 when they retired to their home in Central City.

They have one daughter, Joyce Medinger, who with her husband, LeWayne and five children, Patricia, Colleen, Susan, Michael and Nicholas, are the fourth generation to reside on the family farm. *Submitted by Edna Zlomke Rudolf*



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Rudolf

GEORGE & LOUISE RUDOLF

George Rudolf was born January 27, 1896. He was one of six children born to William and Anna (Muchow) Rudolf of Palmer. He received his education in Merrick County District 45, near Palmer. He farmed with his father and brother until he was drafted into the service in 1917. He served two years in the infantry in France and Germany. After his return, he and Louise Zamzow of Archer were married February 17, 1921.



George and Louise Rudolf — 1921

They made their home on a farm south and east of Palmer, wlich they purchased from George's father. They lived here for nearly fifty years.

He served on various committees, one of which was the Triple A project. He was a schoolboard member for a number of years. George held different positions in his church, and was a choir member for many years. He was also a member of the Palmer band, playing trombone.

They are the parents of two children, Rosemary married to Eugene Beeching of Dayton, Ohio, and Harold, married to Marjorie Behring of Malcolm, Nebraska. Harold purchased the home place, where they raise cattle and hogs in addition to the farming. Harold also served his country in the Korean Conflict. He was stationed in Japan and Korea for two years.

Louise was born May 5, 1895, to Frank and Wilhelmina Zamzow. She received her education in the Archer schools. The home was two and three fourth miles south and west of Archer: The children waled to school most of the time, although a spring buggy and horse took the youngest children in later years.

George and Louise have two grandsons-Douglas Beeching and his wife Lynn, live in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he is an instructor in the computer field. He was sent to Germany for a month where he instructed computership. Greg Beeching, married to Diane, is attending University in Dayton, Ohio, where he and Diane live. She is a nurse in one of the hospitals in Dayton. Greg is taking a course in business administration to go with the psychology course in which he received a B.A. degree.

George and Louise were life members of the United Methodist Church near Archer, where Louise served as pianist for many years. She still plays piano for all activities at Coolidge Center, (Palmer.)

After retiring, they purchased a home in Central City where they lived for about five years. They entered Coolidge Center, where they lived after leaving Central City.

George died January 3, 1979. They observed their Golden Anniversary in 1971. Louise is making her home at Coolidge Center.

A memory of the good old days was the charivari (or chivoree as it was commonly called). This was a serenade for a bride groom. A group of young folks used all kinds of noise makers, and it was kept up until the bride and groom appeared with treats for all. This custom has largely become a thing of the past.

George and Louise went thru the depression years like everyone else, but they had fifty-eight wonderful years together. *Submitted by Louise Rudolf*

HAROLD & MARJORIE RUDOLF

Harold Rudolf was born on January 28, 1929, to George and Louise (Zamzow) Rudolf, in Palmer, Nebraska, and has lived all of his life with the exception of two years in the Armed Services, on the some farm five miles southeast of Palmer in Loup Township of Merrick County.

Harold attended District #45 country school, which was five miles south of Palmer on the Worms Road. He then attended high school in Palmer.

After high school, he farmed with his father until his induction into the army on August 15, 1951. While in the service, Harold went to school a short time in Japan and then was sent to Korea for the rest of his enlistment time, where he served as a mechanic.

After returning from the service, Harold farmed the farm which was formerly known as the Lou Wegner farm, located a mile and a half west of Archer, Nebraska.

On June 15, 1969, he married Marjorie Behring at Seward, Nebraska, and they made their home at the place of his birth, at which time Harold's parents moved to Central City to the home they had purchased from Mrs. Ralph Zlomke.

Harold has one sister, Rosemary (Rudolf) Beeching, and she now lives in Dayton, Ohio with her husband, Gene.

From the time of their marriage, Harold and Marjorie have actively been raising hogs and cattle, and farming.

Marjorie has been an elementary music teacher and has taught in the towns of Holdrege, Grand Island, Central City-Archer, and Palmer.

Harold has several hobbies, which include hunting and fishing, and he especially enjoys singing which is his heritage from both parents, since they both loved music.

Harold and Marjorie's church is an important part of their lives, where Harold was Sunday School Superintendent for over twenty years, and Marjorie and Harold both help with music from time to time at Archer Zion United Methodist Church.



Harold and Marjorie Rudolf

The things I best remember about growing up in Merrick County were the 1930's, where we some years hardly raised anything, but yet always had plenty to eat. Thanks to our milk cows, some chickens, pigs, and a wonderful garden.

One thing I especially remember was going to old District #45, the winters of '35 and '36, on some occasions in the lumber wagon pulled by Dad's team of bays, when the snow was too deep for the old '29 chevy. We kids would be hunched down under the old fur robe, which we thought was very cozy, while Dad urged the team on through the deep snow.

Harold served on the Palmer Co-op elevator board for nine years at one period and Harold's father, George, also served on the board during a portion of his farming era.

Farming is becoming increasingly technical, but due to our Universities' extension service and farmers' faith and ability to see things through, they are able to cope with situations that arise. *Submitted by Harold Rudolf*

JOHN RUDOLF STORY

John Rudolf was born November 25, 1898, at home to Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Rudolf.

John attended school at District #45 in Merrick County, played an instrument many years in the Palmer Band, played baseball with his neighborhood friends, and sang in the church choir throughout the years.

On December 16, 1925 John and Meta Doncheske, daughter of Adam Doncheske, were united in marriage at the Lutheran Parsonage. Their progeny consisted of two daughters, Marjorie Jackson of Denver, Colorado, and Dorothy Rice of Columbus, Ohio.

They operated a farm on the same section on which John was born and kept their heads above failure even during the dust storms, drought, and depression combination of the 1930's. They continued to improve their farmstead until they sold it to Deward McIntosh and moved to Palmer in December of 1959. They live at the same location as Adam Doncheske's second town residence, and have already celebrated their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary while being good neighbors to all their neighbors.

In reminiscing, Meta recalls vividly her father telling about the blizzard of 1888, which lasted several days. No one could go out of the house, as it wasn't safe. Their neighbors, Robert Lamberts, ran out of fuel in the house, so using an ax, knocked a hole in the side of the house to get to a pile of ear corn just outside, and burned ear corn to keep from freezing. John then comes up with a storm that they experienced after they were married. They ate dinner at Alfred Nicholas' on a Sunday in November. The weather was nice in A.M., car was parked facing north, a blizzard came up and deposited a heavy coating of ice on the windshield before Meta looked out. They started deicing the windshield and headed for home, but John had to drive with his head out the window. When they arrived home, their chickens were roosting in their cedar trees. They had to carry them to the chicken house.

On another occasion, they went to Bill Wickman's for the evening. The roads had been plowed out but the wind came up, and Carl Kurz pulled them with team and wagon for almost a mile after they stalled. They barely made it on home, traveling four miles to go two miles.

Meta also recalls her father being an elder in the First Lutheran Church at Palmer and how her father, Henry Albers, Bruno Burkhardt, Paul Burkhardt, Frank Dankert, and Paul Kunze, plus their wives, helped build and finish the interior of their first building, which is now owned by Goldie Stearman.

John and Meta worked in the Zion Evangelical Church near Archer after their marriage, then in the Palmer Methodist Church after moving to Palmer. *Submitted by Meta Rudolf and O.J. Nicholas*

OTTO RUDOLF FAMILY

At the age of seventeen, faced with compulsory military service, my grandfather, Otto Rudolf, slipped out of Pomerania and came to America, a stowaway on a "cattle boat". His destination was Palmer, Nebraska, the home of his oldest brother, Will. Will had come to the new country earlier, and was a "jumping off" place for other members of the family.

Later, Otto went to Omaha where he worked in the packing house for three years. It was in Omaha that he met and married Bertha Templin. Grandma was the daughter of August and Hernena (Ruck) Templin of Ithaca, Nebraska.

With their firstborn, they came by wagon to settle four and one-half miles east of Palmer. By now, most of the land had been claimed and they purchased their farm. There was a dugout for a home.

Across the road lived an Indian family. Grandma said they were friendly and curious. Sometimes Grandma would look up to a window and see a face pressed against the glass, which was at ground level. They wanted to learn how their new neighbors lived.

Soon they were able to build a two-room house. The work was hard then. Grandma scrubbed the clothes on a washboard. The water was carried from the well into the house, where it was heated in a large boiler. After washing, it had to be carried out again. Butter was churned by hand in an old-fashioned churn with a wooden handle. Lard was sometimes used as a spread for their homemade breads. Gardens were not too productive, as the sandy soil needed much water for shallow-rooted plants.

As the size of the family grew, so did the house. Soon it was a fashionable one ane one half story. There was a small kitchen, a dining room with a "fainting" couch, a Round Oak stove, table and chairs, a buffet, and a sewing machine. That was as I remember it. There were three bedrooms and a parlor. Grandma's parlor was open only for entertaining. There was a wooden hide-a-bed with a leather cover, and a chair to match. Also, a secretary-china hutch combined and of course, a Victrola.

There were six children in the family. They were to know sorrow, too. Their eldest daughter, Metha, died as a young woman, leaving one small son, Aaron Retzlaff. Martha died at age three. Their other children were Ernest, Albert (my father), Harry, and Anne.



Otto and Bertha Rudolf

My grandparents were small in stature. I remember Grandpa as a quiet man who loved to play cards. Pinochle was his favorite. I was often asked to "sit in" on a Sunday afternoon when there were not enough men present. Grandpa lived to be ninety-four years old. I remember Grandma as a generous person. She always saw to it that we had several rides at the County Fair, and new school supplies as fall came.

They were faithful church goers, attending every Sunday for as long as they were able. They helped build the New Zion Evangelical Church, which was begun in 1917.

Submitted by Aileen Rudolf Rawlings

WM. A. RUDOLF FAMILY

William A. and I, Lucile (Baumann) Rudolf married May 7, 1937 and started life here on our farm in the northwest corner of Prairie Creek Township in Merrick County. Our farming operations included livestock, grain, and hay and when we



Wm. A. Rudolf Family

started, operated much like Bill's family before him.

A plaque on the corner post at the end of our driveway indicates this farm received the Nebraska Pioneer Farm Award from the Knights of Ak Sar Ben in Omaha in 1976. It was first homesteaded by Charles and Wilhelmina Muckow when they came from Illinois, accompanied by Bill's great grandmother, his mother, Annie, and the other children. Bill's father, Wm. C. Rudolf, married Annie in 1890 and in 1892 they purchased the farm and resided here until their retirement in "37".

Palmer is where I lived with my parents, graduated from high school in 1930, attended Grand Island Business College and worked as a Secretary in Grand Island. My parents were George T. and Dora (Heesch) Baumann. At that time Palmer had a town band, whose members included both town and surrounding countryside men and women. We practiced at the schoolhouse one night a week, Bill and I both playing the E flat alto saxophone. Being involved when the band played Saturday night concerts in summer, at the Decoration Day ceremonies and the fair in St. Paul, we were soon dating.

Naturally, we have experienced some unpleasant times. A tornado destroyed our barn, but was rebuilt within the week with the help of our good neighbors, we lived through the depression, drought, the loss of parents, severe illnesses. However, we have experienced many very special occasions in these many richly filled years. We have been blessed with a daughter, Linda Lou, who arrived October 6, 1949, a son-in-law, Roy W. Brewer, and a dear grandchild, Jennifer Rebekah, born June 26, 1971.

We saw the poles set, the lines strung by the R.E.A. to bring electricity for the first time, and the disappearance of our old ice box, hand pump, gas operated Maytag, old wash boiler and kerosene lamps. In 1949 we purchased a new John Deere "B" tractor for $900 and saw mechanized farming come to this farm for the first time to replace the "hoof and harness". Bill still uses this tractor. About this time we replaced the old farmhouse with our present home. In 1957 we had a well drilled and saw water freely flowing down the corn rows to increase yields of corn we never dreamed possible.

We are members of the Archer United Methodist Church. On its present site there have been three churches, all of which Bill has attended. He served on the Trustee and Financial Board, I in the children's department. We have a most enjoyable association with the friends in our Loyal Workers Class.

Bill's hobbies for many years were bowling and keeping coyote greyhounds to hunt in winter. Now that he is semi-retired he enjoys fishing and has become a top-notch gardener. My hobbies are knitting and painting in acrylic and oil.

We still continue living on the land we love and have borrowed a well known saying, "Let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man." *Submitted by Lucile A. Rudolf*

HANS RUGE FAMILY

Hans and Anna Ruge, with their six children came to the United States from Schlewig-Holstein Germany in 1868. Hans worked for the Union Pacific Railroad to help support his family. He was present when the "Golden Spike" was driven to connect the two links of the Union Pacific tracks.

The Merrick County farm was purchased in 1882 from the Union Pacific Railroad. In the purchase agreement it was stipulated that "The Statutes shall not be construed to include coal & iron lands. During their early day of homesteading they lived in a soddy and later an add-on of log-type housing. They were visited many times by Indians seeking food. Times were hard. A loan was made for $60.00 payable in installments. In 1886 the interest rate was 8'. In 1939 interest rates were 5'.

Hans Ruge Sr. passed away in 1898. Hans Ruge Jr. came into ownership of the farm.

Hans Jr. was 14 years old when he came to the United States with his family. He met and married a young German gir, Elsabe Sturve. She was working as a maid in a wealthy home in Grand Island at the time. To this union were born six children. Three girls and three boys. Hans Ruge Jr. passed away in 1938. He lived on the farm with his son and daughter, Claus and Alma Ruge.

During their farming years they employed two young German men who came to this country to better their living conditions in the United States. During the Roosevelt Administration the windbreak was planted by the C.C.C. This has certainly been an asset in this time of fuel conservation, as well as a haven for the many birds and wild life.

Claus and Alma lived on the farm until 1952 when they built a new home and moved into Grand Island. Claus Ruge was active in Farmers Union. He passed away in March of 1962 when he was stricken with a heart attack while attending the Farmers Union State Convention that was being held at the Capitol Theatre in Grand Island.

Alma is living in the home in Grand Island. She is quite active and clebrated her 87th birthday in January of 81.

The farm was purchased in 1955 by Joe and Dorothy Hull. *Submitted by Dorothy Hull*

WILLIAM RUTTEN FAMILY

The William Rutten family moved from Boone County to Merrick County in 1920, having purchased the Jim Peck farm, consisting of 360 acres in the Loup Valley Neighborhood, located five miles northeast of Palmer, Nebraska.

William Rutten was born in Nennan, Holland, September 14, 1874 and died October 15, 1962. William's parents and family emigrated to the United States with many other families from Holland in 1877. Their destination was Wisconsin, but the Ruttens and two other families became separated from the group in New York City and were directed to Nebraska, settling in Butler County. They faced many hardships the first couple of years. William told his children many times if it had not been for food and help given by two former black slaves from the South, his family would have starved.

On February 22, 1902, William was united in marriage to May Gelwick at York, Nebraska. May was born in Carroll County, Illinois, February 28, 1978, and died July 11, 1940. The Gelwick family came to Butler County by covered wagon when May was just an infant.

William and May set up housekeeping on a farm near Belgrade, Nebraska, and a few years later moved to a farm in the Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, area. All eight of their children were born in Boone County. Pearl (Mrs. C.L. Shryer) born February 10, 1903; Theodore (Ted) born May 3, 1904 died May 18, 1968, married Nellie Hiett, born December 24, 1909, died June 7, 1971; Oris born August 13, 1905, died October 25, 1957, married Anna Hueneke, born February 19, 1914, died October 25, 1954; Donald born February 9, 1907, died November 18, 1974, buried in Valley View Cemetery, Torrington, Wyoming; Tillie (Mrs. H.J. Johnson) born March 14, 1908; Glen (Mike) born September 15, 1909; Mary born August 24, 1914, died September 9, 1920; Merle (Mrs. I.F. Conaway) born November 2, 1917. All of the deceased except Don are interred in Rose Hill Cemetery, Palmer, Nebraska. William and May Rutten had thirty-two grandchildren.

Besides farming, "Bill" as he was better known, bought a threshing machine and corn sheller. With the help of Oris and Don, he did threshing and shelling for many of the neighbors in the area for years.

Just two sons, Ted and Oris, remained in Merrick County. Ted worked for many farmers in the surrounding areas before starting his trucking business, which his son Ted now operates. Dan and Oris farmed together, later acquiring the Frank Burkman "80" and the adjoining Swadley "80". When Oris and Anna married, they lived with the folks, Anna caring for mother who was in failing health. Several years after Oris's death, Mike returned to Palmer, working for numerous farmers and living with dad on the farm until dad's death.

The land was sold to Wynn Bauer of Broughton, Kansas in 1965. The Paul Glynn family continues to farm and live there, as they have for twenty-some years.

Three of Ted Rutten's children still reside in the Palmer area, Janice (Mrs. Walter Kurz), JaNell, and Ted. *Submitted by Merle Rutten Conaway*

CHARLES & LINDA RYAN

Charles Wesley Ryan and Linda Joyce Mead Ryan were married October 18, 1975, in the home of Linda's parents in Wood River, Nebraska. They were married by Linda's father, Pastor Russell Mead. They met while Linda's father was a pastor of the Fairview United Methodist Church, Central City. The Fairview Church, parsonage, and the Ryan Farm are all within one quarter mile of each other.

Linda's son, Jay Scott, was present at the wedding and was adopted by Chuck. Jay was born in Omaha on July 24, 1973.

Their second son, Nicholas Charles, was born on March 28, 1979, in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Charles and Linda and their sons have settled in



Charles Ryan Family — 1980

Central City and Charles commutes to the family farm on which his parents, Marion and Pat Ryan, still live.

Charles was born June 5, 1947, in Central City. He grew up on the family farm and attended Central City Schools. He attended one one year of college at University of Nebraska/Lincoln before he was drafted into the service. He was deferred for medical reasons. He worked at Paddock Siding in Central City for the remainder of the year and then went to Hastings Technical Community College and took courses in Computer Programming. Upon graduation he worked in North Platte at a bank for several years, then went back to Lincoln and worked for a construction company. He began farming in 1975, in the spring before he and Linda were married.

Linda was born December 23, 1949, in Lincoln, Nebraska. She enjoyed growing up as the daughter of a United Methodist minister, and lived in several small towns across Nebraska. She attended high school at Cozad, Nebraska, and then one year of college at Westmar College in LeMars, Iowa. In the summer after that first year of college, Linda toured Europe with the Westmar Chorale. She transferred to Nebraska Methodist School of Nursing in Omaha, and finished her R.N. degree there. Her first job was a Children's Hospital in Omaha where she worked for a year until Jay was born during a short first marriage. After a year at home Linda went back to work at Planned Parenthood of Omaha where she was employed until she moved to Central City to marry Chuck. She was then employed by Mid-Nebraska Community Mental Health Center in Grand Island as a nurse-counselor until the birth of Nicholas. She then quit working out of the home and began attending Kearney State College night classes. She has obtained a B.S. degree and is currently working on a masters degree in Counseling Psychology.

Time spent sharing fun with the family is a priority for both Chuck and Linda, and they are building many memories to share in the future. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ryan*

MARION & GWENDOLYN RYAN

On the 10th anniversary of our first date, June 13, 1939, Marion W. Ryan and I, Gwendoln L. Willeman were married. Rev. Tipton of Central City Methodist Church performed the ceremony at the parsonage in the presence of my parents, my sister Vera, Marion's father and brother Chester, and his wife Marguerite.

Marion was born at Palisade, Nebraska in 1910 to Samuel and Fannie (Heuring) Ryan, The next year they moved back to a farm near Marquette, Nebraska. He attended school there and at Cedar Valley country school.

I was born, at our home on my parents' farm, to Lloyd and Winnifred (Farnham) Willeman and attended school at District #18. Marion and I both graduated from Central City High School. After high school, Marion drove a gasoline transport truck and later he drove for the Omaha Cold Storage. I had two years of college at Nebraska Central College, then taught two years at District #30 on Prairie Island, and the lower grades for five years at District #15 at Pleasant Hill.

Our daughter Jean was two months old when Marion was drafted into the service for World War II. He was a machinist mate 2nd class on a floating dry dock, stationed at Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands. His service duties were from December 1943 to January 1946.

In 1947, dad offered to sell us the farm that Grandfather Willeman homesteaded in 1872. Marion and I were happy to return to a farm near Central City and to the Fairview community.

Many long hard hours have gone into improving the farm, leveling the land, adding wells for irrigation and some remodeling on the frame house that my grandparents had built.

In the year of 1972, we received a "Nebraska Pioneer Farm Award" from the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben. This award is given to all families who have had continued ownership within the family of the same Nebraska farm for 100 years or more.

The joy of our family includes two daughters and a son. Jean, Mrs. Robert Conaway, of Mr. Sterling, Illinois is the mother of two daughters, Kelly and Traci. Our son Charles, has taken over the farming on Grandpa Willeman's homestead, which is where we still live. Chuck and his wife, Linda (Mead) and two children, Jay and Nicholas, live in Central City. Marilyn, our youngest, wife of Kenton Thompson, lives in Holdrege, Nebraska. They have two children, Kelsey and Toria.

Marion is interested in sports having been captain of the high school football team his Senior year. He enjoys bowling and golf and has a number of trophies to show for placing in horseshoe tournaments the past few years.

We are enjoying our health and keep active with community affairs. We like traveling with groups and visiting our children, relatives and friends.

Home Is Where The Heart Is... and our home has a lot of memories that will be cherished for generations. *Submitted by Gwendolyn Ryan*

DONALD F. & ESTHER SAMPSON

Donald F. Sampson was born August 1, 1905 on a farm northeast of Archer, graduated from Central City High School as Valedictorian of his class, went on to graduate from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1927. He returned to Central City and entered the practice of law with his father-in-law, Elmer E. Ross. This association continued until Mr. Ross died in 1934. He then practiced alone until 1947, when Leo J. Armatys became his partner and in 1958 when his son, Donald R. joined the firm.

Esther Ross was born on September 25, 1903 in Central City, graduated from Central City High School and attended the University of Nebraska for three years. Donald F. and Esther were married in 1925, are the parents of two children, Eugenie Wenke of Corona del Mar, California and Donald Ross of Central City.

Esther found her greatest satisfaction in raising her children and being a homemaker. Her interests include various social clubs and playing bridge. She devotes much time to Presbyterian Church and served as Deacon. She is a member of Eastern Star and P.E.O.

Donald F., besides practicing law spent four years as Secretary of the Nebraska Hereford Association. His hobbies of wood working and electronics have contributed extensively to community endeavors. He contributed and installed the sound system at Fairview Methodist Church, built the altar and pedestals at the Masonic Lodge.

He served as president of the Commercial Club, headed the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Merrick County and in 1960 was primarily responsible for the founding of Merrick Foundation, Inc., a charitable community foundation, and served as its president for six years. It was during this time that Merrick Manor, a retirement home, was constructed and to which he contributed much time and money. He was involved, with others, in building Parkview Nursing Home (now Bethesda), built the Merrick Foundation building and presented it, its equipment and furnishings to the Foundation.

He is a member of the Masonic Lodge and served as Master and is a Shriner. Many other activities and community endeavors go unmentioned as this man has unlimited energies in working for the good of others. His generosity of talents is one of his strongest traits.

Submitted by Donald R. and Jacquelin Sampson

DONALD R. SAMPSON FAMILY

Donald Ross Sampson was born in Central City in 1932, son of Donald F. and Esther Ross Sampson. He attended the University of Nebraska Law School, graduating in 1958. He was admitted to the Bar and returned to his home town to practice law with his father and Leo J. Armatys.

Donald was married to Jacquelin Magnuson in June, 1954. Jacquelin was born on the family farm near Chapman to John Samuel and Anna Magnuson in January, 1935. She attended rural school until the family moved to Central City in 1947. She graduated from Central City High School, and was employed as a secretary in the Merrick County ASCS office for two years before her marriage. The two years immediately after their marriage, Don served in the United States Army as 2nd Lieutenant in the Military Police Force, stationed in Augusta, Georgia, and Indianapolis, Indiana. They returned to Lincoln after his discharge, to complete his last two years in Law School. There, in Lincoln, their first child was born in 1957, David Donald. Robert Ross was born in 1959 and their third son, Joseph Alan, was born in 1966. At this writing, David has graduated from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Robert will graduate from the University of Nebraska. In 1971, the Sampsons added a fourth son to their family when Rick Johnson, son of Dale and Stanla Johnson, came to live with them after his mother was killed in an automobile accident and left five children to be raised by families in the Central City area. His father had died in 1967. Rick will graduate from Kearney State College.

Don has been active in community affairs the twenty-two years he has been practicing law. He is currently the senior member in the law firm of Sampson, Curry and Hummel. He served two terms as president of the Chamber of Commerce, Past Master of Lone Tree Lodge No. 36, A.M. & F.M., and director of the Farmer's National Bank. He was a 7-year school board member of which he served as president and was, among others, instrumental in the reorganization of seventeen surroundings districts to the Central City School District, which ultimately resulted in the building of a new Senior High complex. He has served as Trustee and Elder of the Presbyterian Church. He was active in a former Toastmaster International Club in Central City, Sertoma, American Legion, and others. His hobbies include playing golf, spectator sports, and reading. Jackie, in addition to raising her family and homemaking, has been active in church work, serving as Elder-Trustee of the Presbyterian Church, P.E.O., Round Table, an original Director of Lone Tree Literary Society, and lists hobbies as playing bridge, collecting dolls, china painting, reading, and sewing. *Submitted by Donald R. and Jacquelin Sampson*

WILLIAM & ORA SAMPSON

William G. Sampson was born in Portage, Wisconsin, and came to Merrick County with his parents, in a covered wagon, when he was just one year old. He grew to young manhood on the family farm southwest of Archer.

When about twenty-one years old he went to work as a hired man for George H. Ferris northeast of Archer. There he fell in love with the boss' daughter, Ora Ferris, who had been born Feb. 12, 1882, and they were married on March 28, and immediately moved to the S½ SE¼ of 11-14-7, where they lived until moving to Central City in 1922.

Denied more than three or four year of education, he was a good farmer, an excellent horseman, and outstanding as a grower and feeder of hogs. He was a good caretaker, and coupled with his wife's "green thumb", they had a beautiful lawn, trees and garden. His life was punctured with illness, first in 1908 when a stomach operation saved his life, then a heart attack in 1919 which terminated his farming, and finally cancer of the stomach which took his life, actually from starvation, on August 21, 1933. The news account said "No stain was ever attached to his name. Honor and integrity were watchwords of his life. A quiet, dependable, likeable character".

The Sampsons had built the house at 2101-17th Avenue, in 1923, and Ora F, Sampson continued to live there until sometime after her husband's death, when she moved in with her mother at 2019-17th Avenue, and passed away there on January 10, 1957. She was an excellent cook, enjoyed friends, had many, and loved to entertain and feed people. Her garden and flowers were a challenge and a joy to her, and a pleasure to behold for others.

They lost their first child at birth, but were survived by a son, Donald F. Sampson, of Central City, and a daughter, Marybelle (Mrs. Dr. Ralph) Gordon of Salem, Oregon.

DOROTHEA A. SANDER

Dorothea A. Sander (christened Dora Anna Sophia Sander) was born September 30, 1895, near Creston in Platte County, Nebraska. She was the third of eleven children born to Herman H. and Adena Luedtke Sander. Dorothea graduated from Leigh High School in 1941, and taught at several rural schools in Platte and Colfax Counties. After graduation from Kearney State Normal School in 1919, she taught at Leigh High School in Colfax County and Wolbach High School in Greeley County.

She attended the University of Nebraska and graduated in 1929 with a B.Sc. Degree in Home Economics. After graduation, her jobs included the American Red Cross in Alabama; welfare work for Westchester County, White Plains, New York; FHA Nursing Home Administrator in Lincoln, Nebraska; dietitian consultant for State Institutions in Wyoming (1952-1959) and in Boise, Idaho (1959 and 1960). She moved back to Nebraska and lived in Grand Island while working two days a week as dietitian in the St. Francis Hospital and one day a week in the Central City hospital.

In 1961, she semi-retired in Central City and worked at the Litzenberg Hospital as dietitian. For several years she had an apartment in the house that is now the Merrick County Museum. She was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, and enjoyed participating in its women's activities. In February, 1972, she was confined to Parkview Nursing Home as a result of a stroke following surgery. She passed away August 20, 1980, and was buried at Creston, Nebraska.

Although Dorothea never married, all of her nieces and nephews became her family, and every birthday and holiday was made special because of her thoughtfulness. *Submitted by Vivian Ferris Sander*

AMON ARMONIA SANDERS

Amon A. Sanders came from Saunders county, Nebraska in the fall of 1890 with his wife and a small son to a farm along the Platte River not far from Silver Creek.

Amon Armonia Sanders was born 30 December, 1864 in Montrose county, Iowa, the fourth of eight



Amon A. and Alice E. Sanders — 1888



Powers House, Silver Creek. Forrest Sanders, Carpenter

children of Michael Henry and Lavinia Pleasant (Plymate) Sanders. When Amon was two, his parents moved to Saunders county, near Ashland. It was here Amon spent his childhood and went to school to the third grade.

Amon was fourteen when his father died and just fifteen months later his mother died. After his parents' death, Amon boarded with various relatives and friends in and around Ashland and worked as a farm laborer.

He was married 28 November 1888 at Wahoo, to Alice Edna Cadwell. (Born 30 January, 1869 to John T. and Sarah E. (Gilbert) Cadwell. Their first child, Forrest LeRoy was born on 2 November, 1889. Other children born: Fern Elizabeth 16 April 1891, John Lawrence (Jack) 16 May 1893, Amon Armonia, Jr. 20 August 1895, Harry Cadwell 11 March 1897, and Orra Marie 8 April 1899. Amon Jr. died at sixmonths of pneumonia on 29 February 1896 and was buried in Silver Creek cemetery. Fern recalls they put pennies on his eyelids to keep them closed.

Amon moved to Silver Creek in 1901. He did contracting and building, for the rest of his life. Many evidences of Amon's fourty-six years of carpentering can still be seen in abundunce in and around Silver Creek today.

Amon's wife, Alice, died 1901, leaving him with five children under twelve years of age. She was buried alongside their infant son in the Silver Creek Cemetery.

Amon served as both mother and father with the help of hired girls until his second marriage on 27 August 1904, to Mary Barker. (She was born 27 January 1860 in Watkins Glen, New York to Samuel & Margaret Barker). Mary had 2 grown sons.

I was entranced by his daily ritual of taking his morning coffee. He would put cream and sugar in the cup of steamimg brew, stir it, then pour the mixture into his saucer, blow on it till it was just the right temperature and then slurp it in. (HE had to be careful not to moisten his abundant moustache!)

On Sunday, 3 January 1937, Amon was up and about quite early. Right after dinner he lit up a cigar and then decided he'd go and water the chickens. He laid his cigar in the ash tray and said to Mary, "Now, don't smoke that while I'm gone." He failed to return within an hour and she became alarmed and sent for a neighbor lady to investigate. Amon had fallen to the floor, a doctor found that he had suffered a stroke. He died in a Columbus hospital. He was buried beside his first wife, Alice, in the Silver Creek Cemetery, at the age of seventy-two years and four days. He's been a Republican, Methodist, and a member of I.O.O.F. lodge.

Mary lived in Silver Creek until 1943. She was cared for in a Grand Island nursing home until her death on 12 December 1949 at age eighty-nine. She was buried on the other side of Amon in the Silver Creek cemetery. *Submitted by Mary E. Anders, Grandaughter*

FORREST LeROY SANDERS

Forrest LeRoy Sanders came to Merrick county near Silver Creek with his parents in the fall of 1890 from Saunders county, Nebraska where he was born 4 November, 1889. He was the oldest child of Amon and Alice (Cadwell) Sanders. Forrest received his schooling in Silver Creek. When he was seventeen, he quit school to start carpentering with his dad and followed this trade the rest of his life. Many evidences of his skill can still been seen in and around Silver Creek. Forrest played baseball as a young man in Silver Creek and early developed an interest in fishing which became his lifelong hobby.

Forrest was married on 30 March 1911, to Clemmie Julie Beatty (born 5 November 1889 at Hay Springs, NE). Two children were born to them at Silver Creek, Amon LeRoy Sanders on 27, December 1911, and Betty June Sanders on 11 June 1923. Amon was married in 1939, to Mary Dallas Harris. They have a daughter, Linda, born in 1941 who was married in 1961 to Roger Dee Bennett. Linda and Roger had three daughters, Jeanne, Gail, and Heather, and live in Omaha.

Betty Sanders was married on 29, May 1943 to Eugene Linus Larsen. They have three daughters, Diana Mills, Thais Hinchey, and Debbie Lou Thompson, and three grandaughters, and live in California.

In 1942, Forrest and Clem moved to Lincoln where they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in March 1961. He was always very much of a family man and interested in his kin. He was a Methodist, Republican, a Mason, and belonged to the I.O.O.F. lodge and Carpenters' Union.

Forrest enjoyed good health until a serious illness caused his death on 22 August 1970. He was buried in Silver Creek and had lived in Nebraska all his life. Clem, his wife, died, 8 July 1980, and was buried beside him. *Submitted by Mary E. Anders, his Niece*

FERN SANDERS COTTON

Fern Elizabeth Sanders was born 16 April 1891 near Silver Creek, to Amon and Alice (Cadwell) Sanders. She was the second of six children. In March 1901, she moved to Silver Creek where she received her education. In 1908 the Silver Creek high grads numbered two, Fern and Edward Schott. The presentation of their diplomas was unique. They picked them up at the butcher shop owned by the president of the school board.

Fern's early life memories: "One time dad bought a bunch of stuff from someone and there was a doll in it with no head. I played with it though and about Christmas time it disappeared. I got it as a present for Christmas with a new head and all dressed up....We always had mush and milk for Sunday night supper and then we'd play games....Sometime shortly after our Uncle Asa Cadwell (Alice's brother) returned from the Spanish American War, (he was discharged May 1899), he came to get Mother and us kids for a trip back to Saunders county.

My mother died of consumption the day after my tenth birthday. I helped keep house for dad with the help of hired girls till he remarried in 1904.

When I was 12, a neighbor showed me how to bake bread. My first attempt had good results but not so on the second batch as I forgot to put in the yeast!"

Fern attended Fremont Normal school in the summers of 1908 and 1909. Fern had been one of the first in her Sanders family to graduate from high school and she was the first to attend college on either side of her family. Her first teaching job was with District #57 of Nance county at $35 per month. She drove a horse and buggy the seven miles from her Silver Creek home until bad weather forced her to board with a local family.

Fern taught two more years in Nance county and was married 30 August 1911 at Central City to Homer Bentley Cotton (b. 27 January 1888 Louisville, Kentucky to Effie (Chappel) Cotton. The newly-weds settled on a farm six miles southeast of Fullerton where Fern took over a school in January of 1912. The kiddies had run off their previous teacher by their pranks. Two sons were born to them while on this farm, Arthur Richard on 1 October 1912 and Edward Lawrence on 18 July 1915.

In March 1917, Fern and Homer homesteaded twenty miles east of Chugwater Wyoming in the Lone Tree community. They shipped their machinery and household goods by train and they rode out in their 1916 Model T-Ford (It cost $476!). Homer raised wheat, oats, rye and a few beans and corn on this dryland farm, while Fern attended to her cotton crop which later included 3 daughters in Wyo-



Children of Amon A. Sanders — 1900. **L-r** — Fern, Harry, Marie, Forrest and Jack.

ming—Effie Louisa, 17 February 1921, Edna Marie, 3 May 1924, and Mary Elizabeth, 9 March 1933. They later bought a farm in the Iowa Center community twelve miles east of Chugwater.

Fern's Wyoming years were happy and active. She taught school the first years, worked in the church as youth leader, taught Sunday School, and was in circle, served as the only woman on the Iowa Center school board in its entire history, served on the Goshen County fair board, organized Iowa Center's women's club and was its first president, and wrote the Iowa Center news for several newspapers. During the depression, Fern helped the family finances by boarding teachers and carpenters, took the 1930 Federal census, and several school censuses, and sold school supplies from her home. She always was a backer of educational endeavors and was Iowa Center's most faithful booster of all sports. The only dark cloud on this happy horizon was the death of her son, Arthur, in June 1929. He was buried in the Iowa Flats cemetery.

Fern moved to Scottsbluff, Nebraska, in August 1938 with her three daughters. She worked as an office clerk in a wholesale grocery. When she retired at age 65 she again became active in all church work, enjoyed raising flowers, gardening, traveling.

Fern celebrated her 90th birthday in 1981 and is now a nursing home resident. Her motto was always this: "If what you are doing is worth doing, it's worth doing well." And she always did. *Submitted by Mary E. Anders, Her Daughter*

JOHN LAWRENCE SANDERS

John Lawrence Sanders (Jack) was born 16 May 1893 on a farm near Silver Creek, Nebraska to Amon and Alice (Cadwell) Sanders, the third of their six children. He received all his schooling at Silver Creek where he was active in basketball, baseball, and wrestling. Jack's mother died when he was eight and at age seventeen he quit school to carpenter with his Dad. He particularly liked masonry and plastering and worked at it until he retired at age 76. There are many buildings in and around Silver Creek today in which Jack had a hand in the building.

Jack was married on 8 November 1914 at Fullerton, Nebraska to Mable Belle Simpson (b. 8 January 1896 at Belgrade, NE daughter of Jesse & Frances (Whit) Simpson). They moved into a house in Silver Creek which Jack had built. In 1924 they moved to Fullerton. They had four daughter, Maxine b. 1915, Lois b. 1918, Marjorie b. 1920, and Jean b. 1924.

Jack hurt his right eye in October 1934. He tells about it in two letters to his sister, Fern from Lincoln, Nebraska. 29 Oct.: "Dear Sis & family: Received your letter this morning. Sure glad to get it. I was working in CCC Camp at Fullerton in Chautauqua park. We built 12 or 13 buildings. They are all 20 feet wide and from 60 to 100 feet long. Lined inside with masonite wall board. We were nearly through. Got hurt October 15 and they brought me here on the 17th. Suffered a little before I got here but my eyes haven't hurt since. The sight of my right eye is gone but the other is okay. Lots of people go through life without any eyes and some with one so guess I can finish my years with one. (He was 41). Glad to hear you are o.k. despite poor crops etc. Would love to see all of you. Maybe I can before long. Well, take care of yourselves and write." and 19 November: "Well, I'm home. Came last Wednesday. I feel fine but get tired easily. I haven't tried to do anything yet. They took my eye out 2 weeks ago. They are figuring on putting a glass one in for me but will possibly be one or two months before they can. They have to write and get permission from Washington. Haven't drawn any compensation yet and probably won't until after I go to work and don't know when that will be. My left eye is good but of course I haven't gotten used to using one eye yet. It bothers me quite a little but the Doctor and several one-eyed persons tell me that I will get used to it in time and won't even be conscious of being blind in one eye. Answer, Jack."

Jack and Mabel moved to Phoenix, Arizona in 1958 where he died 29 September 1971 and she died in August 1978. Both are buried in Phoenix. *Submitted by Mary E. Anders, His Niece*

HARRY CADWELL SANDERS

Harry Cadwell Sanders was born 11 March 1897 near Silver Creek, Nebraska to Amon and Alice (Cadwell) Sanders and has lived in Nebraska all his life. He was the fitth of six children. He received his schooling in Silver Creek and worked in a grocery store as a young lad. He served in the navy in World War I and went on a ship to Russia with a cargo of flour. He owned and operated a grocery store in Silver Creek for many years and then took up farming near there until he moved to Fremont where he now lives.

Harry was married 16 May 1921 at Columbus, Nebraska to Marie Ellen Nielson (b. 17 Dec. 1901 at Omaha to Jens Peter and Julianne (Pederson) Nielson. They had five children: Harry Jr. b. 1922 at Columbus, the rest at Silver Creek—William Richard 1927, Donald Gail 1929, Jack Raymond 1931, and Marilyn Marie 1936. All five children are graduates of Silver Creek high school as was their mother, Marie.

Harry's stature is slight, he has a fair complexion, blue eyes, and light brown hair. He loved to talk and tease. He's always been an industrious worker and very much of a family man. He's a Methodist, Republican and a Mason. *Submitted by Mary E. Anders, His Niece*

ORRA MARIE SANDERS

Orra Marie Sanders was born 8 April 1899 on a farm northeast of Silver Creek, Nebraska to Amon A. and Alice E. (Cadwell) Sanders. Marie, as she was called, was the youngest of six children. The family moved to the town of Silver Creek in March 1901 and the mother of the family died in April. Marie was two years old.

Marie attended school in Silver Creek through the ninth grade when she had to quit due to ill health. In school she says, "I was a tomboy, could run fast in games, played marbles, and baseball. During summer I hunted and killed snakes with Harry and a neighbor boy. I also played with worms and toads when I was young. My nicknames were Toady, Babe, and Jim. I still like toads around. Brother Jack taught my other brother, Harry, and me to box when we were in school.

I loved to draw and I tried writing novels with me as the beautiful heroine, Monica Evers. (Had a brilliant imagination didn't I?) I liked the outdoors, to hike and I started crocheting and embroidering at age nine. Jack taught me to crochet a chain and I went on from there. I'm still at it over 70 years later. I helped around the house with chores from the time I was little. Thought I was worked to death, but find I wasn't. I sang for my own pleasure (loved to) until homestead days in Wyoming. There I sang at church and in programs.

Marie was married at Osceola, Nebraska on 5 June 1916 at age seventeen to William Fred Trauernicht (b. 9 May 1890 Craig, Missouri to Fred Tammen & Henrietta (Jerdon) Trauernicht). They homesteaded to Wyoming near Chugwater the next fall. Their first child, Alice Effie was born here in 1918. They were on a farm near Craig, Missouri when their other three children were born: Fred Le Roy in March 1921, John William April 1922, and Henrietta Evelyn in May 1924. Marie and Bill were divorced in May 1936.

Marie worked as a housekeeper for A.E. Hight at Scottsbluff, Nebraska from 1935 until his death in 1961. She is now the widow of Herman Thurnau whom she married on 10 August 1967 at Craig, Missouri where she now lives. They had been neighbors and friends when they were young and raising their own children. Marie keeps busy with her gardening. reading, knitting, crocheting, sewing, embroidering, letter writing, cooking, and likes T.V., dancing and driving her car. She is active in church and several organizations. She says, "I've thoroughly enjoyed being alive and still do. I love life, think I've lived it to the fullest too and still have more to enjoy, I hope." *Submitted by Mary E. Anders, Her Niece*

LESLIE SAWATZKY

Leslie Sawatzky was born December 24, 1907 to John and Mary Heppner Swatzky on their farm in Nelson Township, Wonone County, Minnesota where he lived for thirty years.

At the age of 30, Leslie moved to Kansas where he married Irene Wolf at Bentley, Kansas on December 15, 1938 and where Leslie started to school for his ministry. Irene died two years later in 1940.

Leslie met his second wife, Hazel Moore at Minneapolis, Minnesota at the Bible school he was attending and they were married June 8, 1945 at Pineview, Montana in a ranch home.

Leslie and his wife, Hazel, moved to Easton, Kansas in October 1947 where he was pastor of the Fundamental Baptist Church. Here their son, David, was born.

In 1951 they moved to Pueblo, Colorado due to their sons health. Eight months later they moved to Minnesota and lived with his parents one year, then moved to Holden, Missouri where he was pastor of the Temple Baptist Church. Here Elizabeth was born. After three and one half years the family moved to Hoisington, Kansas, then after one and one half years they moved to Yates Center, Kansas, where he was pastor of the Bible Baptist Church for one year. A son, Daniel was born. Leslie supplied in pastoral work for ten months then moved to Sun City, Kansas where he was in the Sun City Baptist Church for seven years. A daughter, Ruth was born during their stay in Sun City.

Then after a stay of one year at Wakefield, Kansas he worked four years in Clay Center, Kansas for Gilmore and Tagy; then retired and moved to Alliance, Kansas. Later he became the pastor at the Grace Baptist Church coming to Central City where their son, Dan attended Nebraska Christian High School and graduated in 1981.

Their four children are: David, married to Laura Neilor and has a daughter, Amber, and a son Jerami. David and his wife, Laura, are in school and live in Lewiston, Idaho. David is also an Electrolux salesman and Laura works in a bank.

Elizabeth lives in Leavenworth and is married to Van Druff. Elizabeth works as a secretary to the Cushing Hospital Manager. Van works at the Missouri Steel Co. They have a daughter, Angelic. Then Ruth and Dan gruaduated from the Nebraska High School in 1980 and is also a piano tuner.

Leslie says as soon as our house is sold in Central City we plan to retire at Clay Center, Kansas.

Leslie had two brothers and two sisters. They are: brother D.J. living at Sterling, Kansas and a retired Baptist Minister. J.W. living at Darfur, Minnesota and is a trucker. Two sisters are both in Newton, Kansas, Evelyn and Francis. They are both retired school teachers. *Submitted by Leslie Sawatzky*

H. KAY AND DELLA SAWYER

The college campus just west of Central City has played an important role in the history of Merrick County since the 1880's. It was this campus which brought our little family to the county in June, 1959. Nebraska Christian Schools had just purchased this 27-acre tract for the purpose of starting a Christian High School, and we were hired to be the first girls' dorm parents and to teach music.

At that time our oldest daughter, Mary, was one year old. Our other five children were born in Merrick County, and our second child, James Allen, who died in infancy, is buried in the Central City Cemetery. The four younger children are Duane, Jane, Sheryl, and Becky.

We lived on the campus as dorm parents for eight years, then moved to a farmhouse owned by Lucy Walker two and one half miles north of Central City on Hiway 14. In 1969, we purchased the former Gus Anderson home at 1903 12th St. in Central City, where our family lived for seven years. We purchased our present home near the campus of Nebraska Christian on the old "College Section" of Merrick County in 1976, and sold our house in town.

Before moving to Central City, we taught one year at a Christian School in Hutchinson, Kansas. Before that we lived in Omaha, where Kay and Della graduated from Grace College of the Bible and Mary was born. Prior to college, Kay lived with his folks in Valley County, Nebraska and graduated from North Loup High School, and Della lived with her folks in Cottonwood County, Minnesota, and graduated from Mountain Lake High School. *Submitted by Kay and Della Sawyer*

RAYMOND SAWYERS

In Memoriam
In fondest memory of our dear father.
We want to be like our father
Sincere and kind and true;
We want to do the things,
Our father used to do.
We want to do those kindly deeds,
With a kind and friendly touch.
We want to help the friends in need
That need the aid so much.
We'd like to wear that welcome smile,
We found on father's face,
We know that we can never find
One who can take his place.
The children of Raymond Sawyers

This following tribute written by Ellen Cambell and published in the Central City paper at the time of our father's death, explains more thoroughly the kind of person he was.

"I want to somehow express the sense of loss so many of us feel with the death of Raymond Sawyers. In quiet example, he led the kind of life I believe God would like us all to live. Ray was always kind and pleasant to everyone. He truly served his fellowman, and no task was too bothersome for him. Our children have mentioned, for instance, that he would fix the zippers on their coats at school. When I taught there, he would come into my room and offer to do little extra jobs he thought I might want done. I'm certain every teacher, student, and co-worker who ever shared his life at the school will always remember him.

His sense of humor endeared him to the children, and thorough goodness was apparent to all. He made us feel important.

Sometimes humble lives leave greater impression than those of "important" people. Ray and his wife raised one of the finest families of children in this community—a lasting tribute. And those of us outside his family are better for having known Raymond Sawyers." *Submitted by Donna Green (Daughter)*

SCARBOROUGH-RANDELL

Thomas Scarborough Robinson was the fifth child of Charles H. and Teresa Scarborough Robinson. He was born February 28, 1882 and died April 13, 1949. He was married December 29, 1909, to Ethel Randell (born July 15, 1892, died June 8, 1974). To this union, the following children were born: Thelma Donna Marie Robinson (6-8-11 to 1-31-57) married September 1, 1928, to Albert Chris Johnson (10-12-99 to 6-1-77); Glenda Genevieve Robinson (7-13-13) married July 11, 1933 to Milford Johnson (3-21-14 to 3-15-78)

Vaughn Melvin Robinson (4-24-20) married June 21, 1944, to Frances Opal Nelson (3-25-21)

Etta Eloise Robinson (7-12-23) married July 29, 1941, to Charley Henry Francis Brown (3-4-07 to 3-6-76)

Lucille Maurine Robinson (19-5-25) married Sept. 18, 1965 to Albertus Peter Campbell (3-3-12)

The children born to Thelma Donna Marie Robinson and Albert Chris Johnson are:

Helen Irene Johnson (8-1-29) married August 7, 1946, to F.E. Price, Jr. (December, 1926).

Arlene Charlotte Johnson (5-10-31) married September, 1953, to Jack Weible.

Albert Leland Johnson (10-23-31) married June, 1947, to Beverly Ann Meisinger.

Mary Ann Johnson (8-29-34) married to John Pelham (died 1976).

Richard Lee Johnson (4-21-36) married to Doris Eva Noble.

Charles Eugene Johnson (7-3-37) married to Caryl Jean Sawvell.

Dorothy Elaine Johnson (9-22-38, died in 1963) married to Donald Earl.

Joan Grace Johnson (10-15-39) married July 19, 1955, to Richard Wood.

The children born to Vaughn Melvin Robinson and Frances Opal Nelson are: Sandra Kay Robinson (7-29-47) married to Steve Bedient; Robert Vaughn Robinson (7-8-50) married to Karen Nelson.

The children born to Etta Eloise Robinson and Charley Henry Francis Brown are: Francis Bruce (Pete) Brown (8-17-41) married to Bonnie Cox; Charlene Kay Brown (4-21-43) married to Dalton Scott.

Thomas Edwin Brown (8-20-46) married Cheryl Ring Gantz.

The child born to Lucille Maurine Robinson and Albertus Peter Campbell is Thomas Peter Campbell, born December 2, 1969. *Submitted by Mrs. A.P. Campbell*

THOMAS SCARBOROUGH

Thomas Scarborough and Caroline Wattam were married in England where Thomas was a laborer, on the sixth of May 1851. His father, John, was a farmer. Her father, John was a currier. Caroline was born in Ireland.

Thomas and Caroline and their first born, Walter, arrived in America in 1852 and settled at LaPorte, Indiana. Here eleven children were born to them.

In the spring of 1879, Thomas and Caroline and seven children; Theresa, Thomas, Ida Hannah, Sarah Jane, Anna, Rachel and Charles started west to join their daughter and sister Mary Ann Hartford and her family. The oldest son, John, had married and stayed in Indiana.

This trip took six weeks and they arrived in what is now Palmer, Merrick County, Nebraska on June 22, 1879. They traveled in two covered wagons drawn by horses. They crossed the Mississippi and Missouri rivers by ferry and cooked their food on a sheet iron stove. They had to buy some of their drinking water. They saw large herds of buffalo. They met many Indians, most of whom were friendly. They passed many other covered wagons drawn by oxen.

Thomas and Caroline bought a relinquishment on which there was a clay house and an open well. Thomas built a sod addition to the clay house.

January 31, 1881, Thomas passed away and Caroline and the children were left to carry on alone.

Before Caroline could receive title to her land, she had to become a citizen of this country, which she did July fourteenth, 1884. Thomas had received his citizenship at LaPorte, Indiana.

The above was taken from the family Bible of Caroline Wattom Scarborough.

The children of Thomas and Caroline Scarborough and who they married are: John Walter (who married Ida Goff). They had five children-Mary, Edward, Wilbur, Albian and Marian. This family remained in Indiana. Mary Ann (who married Spencer Hartford), they had eight children: Elizabeth Ann, John, Bennie, Ester, Cornelius Spencer, Sarah, Charles and Harry.

Elizabeth died of diphtheria. Theresa married Charles Robinson, they had Lucy, James, Mary, Theresa, Thomas, Annie, Ethel, Charles (Jake), Frank, Veronica Case (Ted).

Thomas William married Kitty Gage. Their children were William, Joseph, Fred, Ira, Newman, Minnie, Albert, Clarence, Dorris and Lynn.

Ida Hannah married Lyman Ken Curtis. Their history appears elsewhere in the book.

Sarah Jane married Lester Reynolds. Their children were: Laura, Francis, Elsa, Nellis, Ralph, Clyde, Gladys, Madaline, Oscar and Mildred.

Anna Caroline married Wm. Henry Baker. They had no children.

Rachel Laura married Alfred Davis. They had nine children: Isabelle, George, Lee Henry, Alfred, Alma, Cecil, Otha, Percy and Bessie.

Charles married Ida Irene Stone. They had eight children: Charles, Clifford, Ruby, Esther, Mary, Viola, Harry, Lottie, Harold and Vivian Alverta.

Joseph Nicholas, sixth child of Thomas and Caroline, died of diphtheria at the age of seven years. *Submitted by: Leota Rawlings Baird and Beulah Ross Scarbrough*

MARTIN & CARRIE SCHARVIN

Martin Scharvin, youngest son of Frank and Mary Scharvin, was born near Villach, Austria, of German descent on October 4, 1886. He passed away at his home near Archer, Nebraska on Wednesday evening, September 25, 1935, at the age of fourty-eight years. Death resulted from cancer of the stomach area.

He came to the United States at the age of eighteen years, settling at Valley, Nebraska. He became a naturalized citizen of this nation. He worked at the Valley Stock yards for a few years and then became a farmer.

Carrie Belle McKnight Scharvin, daughter of George McKnight, (who came to the United States from Cork, Ireland) and Ellen Lucy Harrison McKnight, (daughter of Jane Harrison-Talcott, who was born in Yorkshire, England) was born December 29, 1884 near Valley, Nebraska. Carrie passed away on February 1, 1962 in a Grand Island hospital from a serious stroke suffered on November 29, 1961.

In the year 1890, diphtheria was a deadly disease. Carrie lost a sister, Minnie, age twelve, on September 11; a sister, Alice, age seventeen, on October 16, and her father, George McKnight, age fifty-four on September 22, 1890 from diphtheria.

Carrie's sisters and brothers in order of age: Mary Jane McKnight Grover, Alice McKnight Phillis, George, Minnie, Nellie McKnight Sawyer-Sifford, Ida, Carrie Belle McKnight Scharvin, Eva Pearl McKnight Allen, Albert Ray, and Sadie Violet Phillis Claycomb, a half-sister.

Martin Scharvin and Carrie McKnight were united in marriage on May 1, 1911, at Omaha, Nebraska. To this union five children were born, two dying in infancy. Other children are: Bonnie (Mrs. Ervin Blauhorn), Evelyn (Mrs. Gerhard Bruns), and Frank Martin Scharvin. Grandchildren are: Nancy, Janet, Ronald, Linda, and Kathleen Scharvin. *Submitted by Evelyn Bruns*

CARL AND ANNA SCHEER

Carl Herman Scheer came to America from Ernsthal, Germany, arriving in New York on May 8, 1881, and getting to Grand Island, Nebraska, on May 15, 1881. A baker in Germany, he came from a family of four girls and four boys. Like many of his countrymen, he left Germany to avoid compulsory military service.

Carl worked at different farms in this area for about $15.00 per month, one of these farms belonging to Traugott Wagner, on Prairie Creek about three miles southeast of Worms. He bought a timber claim from Mr. Stephen L. Wiser, a bachelor; 160 acres for $2200.00, March 13, 1883. Needing a cook, Carl asked Mr. Wagner for the hand of his daughter Anna.

Anna Pauline was the oldest of five children of Traugott and Pauline Schuessler Wagner, born June 11, 1865, in Langenberg, Saxony, Germany. She emigrated with the family to America in 1879. She married the hired man, Carl Scheer, April 26, 1883, when she was sixteen.

Carl and Anna had six children: Willie, Clara (Heneke), Julius, Otto, Frieda (Schipman) and Emil. The children attended District #28, on the southeast corner of Scheer's land. School was required until age eighteen, but the older children usually only attended in the winter when they could be spared from farm work.

Kerosene lamps and lanterns, water hauled from a well, and horses for farming and transportation were a way of life. Cash was scarce, but food was home-raised and plentiful. Everyone in the family was expected to contribute to the labor force. Homes were opened to newly arrived family from the old country and neighbors and friends in need. Each provided shelter as he could: a Christian attitude prevailed.

Carl and Anna made room for three family members from Germany, a brother and his two sons. Many phones were installed in the Worms area in 1905. There were seventeen Scheer's line, their ring being two longs and one short. In the evening someone would call up and ask "the Dutchman", one of the men from Germany, to play his concertina. He would get ready, the phone would ring, and everyone on the line would pick up their phone and "rubber."

Carl took sacks of wheat and corn to a town with a mill and had the grain ground into flour. Anna made her own yeast from cornmeal.

Replanting corn eaten by gophers was the children's job. After a rain, they'd walk barefoot down the row, make a hole with their heel, drop in a couple of kernels, and push the dirt back over them with

their foot. Carl built an incubator for twelve hens and the children were responsible for all care and feeding of the chickens.

The family attended Zion Lutheran Church in Worms, the children taking confirmation classes there.

Carl died June 30, 1919, in Grand Island, and Anna died February 18, 1935, in Grand Island. Both are buried in the old Grand Island Cemetery. *Compiled from manuscripts by Frieda Clara Scheer Schipman and Hattie Thresa Kaiser Scheer*

ELTON & BETTY SCHEER

Elton Fred Scheer was born December 20, 1925, son of Otto Carl and Marie K.M. (Mamie) Peters Scheer. He grew up on the family farm, helping with livestock raising and small grain. He was fortunate to have the opportunity to go to high school in Chapman. He was confirmed at Zion Lutheran in Worms. In 1945 Elton was stationed with the Army at Camp Roberts in California. After his discharge, he raised turkeys to make a bit of extra spending money. Turkeys and corn were not compatible, however, as when it rained on the corn (good), it rained on the turkeys (bad)!

Betty Jane Glause, daughter of John and Linda Stelk Glause, was born October 15, 1927. She graduated from Grand Island Senior High, then worked for Meyer's Jewelry and later for Fairmont Creamery in the office. Elton and Betty really didn't know each other as children although their families farmed only four miles from each other, and both were in 4-H clubs as youngsters.

Elton and Betty were married June 1, 1947, at Zion Lutheran in Worms. Elton had been raised and confirmed in that church, Betty was confirmed there in October 1947. They lived with Elton's folks until March 1948, moving to the Old McClay Place, four and one half miles east of Worms on the Ormsby Road. Shortly after moving there, the couple named their home "Prairie Creek Farm". They started married life with three donated milk cows and twenty-four chickens. Elton farmed with his dad. Company had to be content sharing Jelly Bread and sitting on an old green bench.

As years went by, the couple made improvements and increased their Holstein dairy herd. In 1972 they built an unusual "Merry Go Round" milking barn. This barn is fully automated, the floor revolves, and eight cows can be milked at once.

June 1967 saw Prairie Creek flood the farm completely. There was so much water on the lawn that a beaver chewed off a five inch diameter pine oak tree only seventy-five feet from the house.

Most all the bridge approaches in the area gave way in the rushing water, so the family hauled gravel in a wheelbarrow to put around the bridge pilings, thus enabling the bulk carrier to come get their milk.

The couple was blessed with five children: Pamela Adelle (Turner), Stanley Lee; Lyle Allen; and Gordon Kent, born November 14, 1957 and Candace Dawn, born September 21, 1963, still at home. All of the children attended Zion Lutheran Parochial School and graduated from Central City High School.

Elton's hobbies are woodworking and whittling. For Christmas he made a nativity scene for each of his children. Betty enjoys sewing and crocheting. She belongs to Prairie Creek Improvement Extension Club. The entire family keeps active with church activities at Zion Lutheran. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Elton Scheer*

JULIUS & HATTIE SCHEER

Julius Paul Scheer, son of Carl Herman and Anna Pauline Wagner Scheer, was born at home, three miles east of Worms, July 4, 1889. He was educated at District #28 on the southeast corner of their land, and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Worms.

Hattie Thresa Kaiser was born September 10, 1894, at home in Hall County, daughter of Carl J. and Ida Erdman Kaiser, farmers. Hattie attended Seedling Mile School until she was eleven, then walked to town to Trinity Lutheran School. She finished her education at Zion Lutheran in Worms after the family moved to the community, walking three miles each way.

Hattie and Julius were married June 15, 1915, at



Julius and Hattie Scheer

Zion and lived their married life two and one half miles east of the corner south of Worms, on a farm purchased from Herman Loeffelbein in 1908. Their home was built in 1914 in a pasture. With no trees at first, they stuck willow branches in the mud along the edge of the slough. Later cottonwood, elms, cedars, and mulberry trees made a windbreak for the house on north and west.

The 1930 drought years, they sold hogs for three cents a pound, cattle for five cents a pound, and eggs for five cents a dozen *if* some one would buy them.

Julius and Hattie had five children: Harold, born August 31, 1917; Lilly, April 17, 1921; Robert, September 8, 1923; Esther, November 20, 1926; and Wilma, May 18, 1928.

There was very little money in the house, but the family always had plenty to eat. There were usually eight around the table, the family and a hired hand. Some of the children even had the luxury of braces on their teeth. Hattie washed clothes on a washboard, later getting a wash-machine. Corn cobs picked up from the hog pen provided fuel for heating, cooking and cleaning. All farming was done with horses and walking plow cultivator when they started.

Julius died April 9, 1971, and Hattie moved to Grand Island in 1974. She has thirteen grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren. She again belongs to Trinity Lutheran Church, and is active in Senior Citizen groups. Hattie has been a member of Cheerie Center Club since 1956, and was a member of Dorcas Ladies Aid at Zion. Hattie loves to visit with her friends and family, play cards, and do her own canning and baking. She actively quilts, and has won two firsts at Merrick County Fairs. Hattie has never missed a year exhibiting at the fair, and her canned goods have won many awards.

Hattie remembers that she got her engagement ring sixty-six years ago, and she cherishes the years spent on the farm. She and Julius celebrated their fiftieth anniversary together while still on the farm east of Worms. *Submitted from Manuscripts by Hattie Thresa Kaiser Scheer*

LYLE & CINDY SCHEER

Lyle Allen Scheer was born July 29, 1954, to Elton Fred and Betty Jane Glause Scheer. He was baptized August 22, 1954, and confirmed October 24, 1968, at Zion Lutheran Church in Worms, where he has been a life-long member. Lyle attended grade school at Zion and graduated from Central City High School in 1972.

Cindy Anne Lepp was born March 19, 1954, to Calvin Carroll and Marian Kathleen Ellsworth Lepp of Central City. She was baptized October 24, 1954, in the United Presbyterian Church in Central City, where she was confirmed in 1968. She was confirmed in the Lutheran faith following her marriage at Zion in Worms in 1975. She graduated from Central City High School in 1972 and attended one year at University of Nebraska/Lincoln.

Lyle and Cindy were married July 29, 1973, at the United Presbyterian Church in Central City, and lived in town for two years. Lyle worked at Chuck's Body Shop and Cindy worked for Barry Turner, MD. In July of 1974, following his brother Gordon's serious car accident, Lyle returned to the farm to help his father. A year later the couple moved out to the country to live on the Julius Scheer Farm, three miles east of the corner south of Worms. Lyle and his brother Stanley began farming together, soon getting into hog production. They are now a partnership, Scheer Brothers Farm.

Lyle and Cindy have two daughters. The oldest, Megan Rae, was born October 23, 1976, and baptized at Zion on November 38, 1976. Danielle Dawn was born November 15, 1980, and baptized at Zion November 30, 1980. Megan attends Sunday School at Zion and is taking ballet and swim lessons at the YW-YMCA in Grand Island.

Lyle's hobby is reading and Cindy likes sewing and needlework. *Submitted by Mrs. Lyle Scheer*

OTTO & MAMIE SCHEER

Otto Carl Scheer was born June 10, 1894, fourth child of Carl Herman and Anna Pauline Schuessler Wagner. He farmed with his family on their land which had been in the Scheer family since March 13, 1883. As a young man, Carl, Herbert Wagner and Carl Seim were motorcycle enthusiasts. Many times as they rode past a farm, the dogs would come out and chase the boys, tearing pants legs. Community dances complete with a band were held in the barn on Otto's father's place.

Marie Katrina Margaretha Peters, known as Mamie, was born May 6, 1899, to Fred N. and Emma Luebbe Peters. Her parents had come to America from Schleswit-Holstein Germany when they were nine and two years old respectively. Her folks lived on their homestead near St. Libory in Howard County. Her father raised Hereford cattle and farmed.

Otto and Mamie were married October 4, 1917. They moved onto Carl's place and Anna moved to Grand Island. They had three children; Ervin Carl, Evelyn Ann (Kurz), and Elton Fred. In those days children were born at home. Dr. Triplett came from Chapman and Mamie's mother came from St. Libory by horse and buggy to help care for the new infant and the family. The children attended District #28 when small, later attending Zion Lutheran at Worms.

Education could be exciting in those days, too. Teachers gave their students kernels of corn to use like small blocks to spell out their names. Evidently Elton stuck one up his nose. The day they couldn't understand him anymore, they took him to Dr. Racines in Palmer. The Doctor found and removed a corn kernel that had sprouted. No more trouble after that!

The local school teachers from District #28 and later from Zion Lutheran Church School at Worms boarded for many years with Otto and Mamie

Otto's hobbies centered on his hogs and Herefords. He also enjoyed his little Ford tractor. He was one of the first farmers to put in an irrigation well. He had one drilled by Ed Seim during the drought of 1941.

Mamie helped with most anything on the farm, but always did many crafts. She had a large garden every year and lots of flowers. Her hobby now is her house plants. She is a member of Dorcas Ladies Aid at Lutheran and helps make quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Both Mamie and Otto were baptized and confirmed at Zion and it has been their family's church home down through the years.

Otto passed away November 9, 1972, and is buried at Zion in Worms. *Submitted by Mrs. Elton Scheer for Mrs. Otto Scheer*

STANLEY & LAURIE SCHEER

The parallels between Stan and Laurie's lives are numerous: Both were raised on corn and dairy farms . . . about six miles apart . . . they attended the same high school and technical school. Yet they did not

meet until after both had left home.

Stanley Lee Scheer was born March 14, 1951, to Elton Fred and Betty Jane Glause Scheer. He grew up on his parents' farm four and one half miles east in Worms. Stan attended and was confirmed at Zion Lutheran in Worms. He attended grade school at District #28, finishing at Worms, and high school at Central City, graduating in 1969. He attended Central Technical Community College in Hastings, majoring in Diesel Mechanics. Stan enlisted in the U.S. Army National Guard in 1970. His basic training was at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He was trained to be a medic and was graduated with honors. He was stationed in Grand Island.

Laurie Jo Reeves was born July 28, 1957, in Grand Island, daughter of Gerald and Elvera Banksson Reeves who farmed near Chapman. She grew up with two older brothers, Eugene and Jerry, and an older sister, Janice. Most of her childhood memories are of helping her parents milk cows, raising corn and raising 10,000 turkeys every year.

Laurie's family attended St. Michael's Catholic Church in Central City where she was confirmed. She was later confirmed at Zion Lutheran in Worms in June 1978. Her education included Merrick County District #39 and Central City, graduating in 1957. She received a Two-Year Degree in Business Administration from Central Tech in Hastings in 1977. She was a member of Phi Beta Lambda, Business Fraternity, and an officer of that club for two years. She lived at home during most of her education.

Early in 1976 her brother, Jerry, also moved back home. He introduced Laurie to a high school friend of his, Stan. A week later the couple had their first date: a week-long trip in Stan's 1932 Ford Coupe to the National Street Rod Show in Tulsa, Oklahoma. They continued to date and became engaged at Christmas that same year. Stan and Laurie were married April 16, 1977, at Zion Lutheran.

Stan and Laurie presently make their home on the Wesley Schutz Farm, eight and one half miles west of Central City on the Ormsby Road. Shortly before their second wedding anniversary, they were blessed with a son, Shawn David, born March 21, 1979, in Aurora. Stan farms with his brother Lyle, as Scheer Brothers Farm, and raise corn and hogs. The family attends Zion Lutheran in Worms. Stan and Laurie belong to the Lone Tree Scuba Divers and Laurie is an Emergency Medical Technician with the Palmer Rescue Squad. While growing up she was a member of Busy Maidens 4-H Club. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Scheer*

FRED SCHENK JR. FAMILY

Frederick Schenk, Jr., was born August 10, 1946, at Central City to Frederick and Anola Schenk. His parents live on an acreage northwest of town, where he grew to young manhood. He attended the Central City Public Schools and graduated from high school with the class of 1966.

He met Connie Jo Belle, from Hamburg, Iowa, when she was visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fullington, and they began their courtship.



Fred Schank, Jr. Family

Connie Jo was born September 5, 1947, to Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Belle, of Hamburg, Iowa. I attended a country school for three years. Then we moved to town and I attended the Hamburg Public School. I was in the marching and concert band, Girls Glee Club, Mixed Chorus, and Honor Society Club. I graduated from the Hamburg High School with the class of 1965. Then I attended the Lincoln School of Commerce for one year.

I was in the Washington Madison and the Washington P.E.P. 4-H Club for nine years, which was very rewarding and I enjoyed it very much. My brother, Carrol, was a member also. Both of our parents were 4-H leaders for several years.

Soon after graduation, Fred joined the U.S. Army and served for two and one half years. In it, two years were spent in Viet Nam.

After Fred's discharge from service, we married August 2, 1969, at the First Christian Church in Central City by Reverend Melvin Zichek. Three of our honored guests were our grandmothers, Mrs. Lottie Belle, Mrs. Hattie Fullington, and Mrs. Louella Schenk. After a short honeymoon, we started housekeeping here in Central City.

We have two children: Michael, born August 2, 1971, and Kimberly, born July 23, 1973. They attend the Central City Public School.

We have enjoyed several vacations. Some points of interest were Washington, D.C., Niagara Falls, Denver, Colorado, and our two air flights to Portland, Oregon, where we visited my brother, Carrol, and family. They have three daughters, Deborah, Tamara and Teresa. On our last visit, we attended Deborah's high school graduation exercise.

We attend the First Christian Church and Sunday School. Mike and Kim are active in the youth group. Mike is a 4-H member and a tee-ball player. Kim is an Awana member.

Bowling is our favorite family sport. Fred and I bowl on the mixed league, Mike and Kim on the Junior League. We also like to go boating and Fred likes water skiing.

Fred works on a farm northeast of Fullerton for the Sonderup Brothers. He has worked there for ten years.

My father, Floyd Belle, was killed in a tractor accident August 15, 1973. Fred's father, Fred Schenk, Sr., died suddenly of a heart attack October 11, 1979. Both of our mothers live here in Central City. My mother moved here after Daddy's death. She bought the home we lived in from us, and we built a new home on 27th Street and moved in it February, 1974. *By Mrs. Fred Schenk, Jr.*

ALBERT & NAOMI SCHIPMAN

Albert Schipman was born June 20, 1951, the oldest son of Edwin and Melba (Bergstrom) Schipman. He has two sisters, Anita and Susan and one brother Robert. Albert attended Zion Lutheran School, Worms and Palmer High School.

Albert entered the Navy, March 1971. He was stationed at 32nd Street Naval Base, San Diego, California. He served on the USS Marvin Shield DE 1066 for his whole enlistment. After serving overseas in VietNam, Albert was discharged from active duty January 20, 1973.

In 1971 while stationed in San Diego, Albert met Naomi Carpenter.

Naomi was born May 14, 1953 to Robert and Marcella (Riely) Carpenter in San Diego, California. Robert Carpenter's genealogy is on record in the San Diego Library—providing information on his ancestry in Germany. Naomi attended Hoover High School and San Diego, City College for pre-med courses. She was employed at Beverly Manor Hospital as a nursing assistant for three years.

Naomi's parents moved to Grand Island, Nebraska October of 1979. Naomi has one older brother Bruce, still living in San Diego; an older sister Peggy and her husband Sgt. Chuck Mealing stationed in San Antonio, Texas with the Air Force; and a younger sister and family Pamela and Bill Taylor, Billy and Beau stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii while in the Navy.

Albert and Naomi were married May 14, 1972 and lived in San Diego until the 10th of June 1973 when they moved to Worms to make their home near Albert's parents.



Albert and Naomi Schipman — 1972

They have two children: Jeffrey Allen born May 30, 1974 and Corrinne Lee born January 5, 1977. Jeff attends Palmer School in Palmer.

Naomi worked as a nurses' aid in pediatrics for over a year in the Lutheran Hospital, Grand Island, Nebraska. She is a member of Cheerie Center Extension Club and is currently serving as president.

Albert enjoys working on and restoring antique cars. He is employed at Berkley Pump in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Albert and Naomi enjoy league bowling in St. Paul, Nebraska.

The family are members of Zion Lutheran Church, Worms. *Submitted by Naomi Schipman*

DONALD SCHIPMAN FAMILY

Donald Albert Schipman is the son of Reinhard and Frieda Scheer Schipman. Don was born on June 26, 1935 at home, one mile northeast of Worms. Don was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith at Zion Lutheran Church in Worms. He attended Zion Lutheran School, Palmer Public, and graduated from St. Paul High School in 1953. Don has two brothers, Leonard and Edwin.

Don met his wife, Roberta Kay Ewoldt at Hall County Rural Youth in February 1961. They were married in the St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island on December 29, 1962. They hope to be as fortunate as their parents. Both sets of parents have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary: Don's folks in 1969 and Roberta's, in 1979.

Roberta, the daughter of Edmund and Emily Tagge Ewoldt, was born on January 15, 1939. Roberta was baptized and confirmed in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island. She attended Jefferson Elementary, Walnut Junior High and graduated from Grand Island Senior High in 1957. Roberta attended Grand Island Business College and worked as Office Coordinator for the Overland Trails Council, Inc. B.S.A., from January 1958 till July 1967. She has a sister, Louise Rae Hunnicutt of Giltner, and a brother, Bryce, of rural Grand Island. Roberta's great grandfather, Cay Ewoldt was one of the thirteen original settlers of Hall County in 1857. Her parents received the Hundred Year Pioneer Farm Family Award from Ak-Sar-Ben in 1967.

Don and Roberta built a new home on his parents farm when they were married. They continue to make their home there. Their family consists of Don's son, Louis Reinhard Schipman, born January 12, 1959; their daughter, Patricia Suzanne Schipman born October 18, 1967; and their son, Danel Ewoldt Schipman born September 27, 1970. Louis works for Diamond Engineering Company, and lives in Grand Island. He married Jane Vogel of Cairo on April 25, 1981. Patricia and Danel attend Palmer Public School.

Don farms the home place on which he, his mother and brothers received the Hundred Year Pioneer Farm Family Award from Ak-Sar-Ben in 1980. Don has also worked as a carpenter for the past thirteen years and is presently employed at

Atlantic Homes in Central City.

Don and Roberta belong to the Zion Lutheran Church in Worms, the Platt Duetsche Society in Grand Island, and the Roll-A-Ways Square Dance Club in St. Paul.

EDWIN SCHIPMAN FAMILY

Edwin Carl Schipman is the son of Reinhard and Frieda Schipman. Edwin was born on September 13, 1927 at home, one mile northeast of Worms.

On October 23, 1927, Edwin was baptized at home. His godparents were Albert Quant, Emil Scheer and Mrs. William (Helen) Gruhn.

Edwin started school at age five on August 30, 1933. His first grade teacher was Miss Agnes Frese. He was a member of a local 4-H club from age nine to fourteen and exhibited projects at the Merrick County Fair. He was always interested in gardening and plants. He made himself a small greenhouse and planted seeds, at the age of fourteen and also attended school at Zion Lutheran School of Worms through the eighth grade. Also at age fourteen his older brother, Leonard joined the Army and Edwin took over much of the farming.

Edwin met his wife, Melba Christine Bergstrom, at Dannebrog, Nebraska, at a church activity. On September 10, 1950, Edwin and Melba were married at the Dannebrog Lutheran Church.

Melba was born August 3, 1928 in Dannebrog to Albert Leonard and Marie Katherine Nielsen Bergstrom. Melba was a Dannebrog High School graduate of the 1947 class. As her mother died when she was small, she lived with her grandmother, Mrs. Enevold (Anna P.) Nielsen. Mrs. Nielsen was born in Denmark and settled in Dannebrog.

Melba spoke Danish as well as English most of her young life, until the death of her grandmother. Melba's father remarried when she was thirteen. Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Bergstrom resided in Klammoth Falls, Oregon at the time. They now live in Apache Junction, Arizona.

Edwin and Melba lived their lives together in their home near Worms. They farmed the land with his parents and his two brothers, Leonard and Donald. Edwin and Melba also owned and operated a greenhouse which they built beside their house in 1950. In the late 1960's they started truck-gardening.

Children born to them were Albert Reinhard, June 20, 1951; Anita Marie (Jurzenski), June 10, 1958; Susan Louise (Larsen), July 27, 1960; Robert Myron, April 1, 1962; and Dennis Carl, stillborn on May 20, 1964.

Melba was an active member of the Dorcas Ladies Aide and a charter member of the Cheerie Center Club, Extention.

On January 30, 1974 Melba passed on, leaving the three younger children at home.

Albert, Anita and Susan have married and Robert presently lives at home with his father. Robert is on the construction crew for Diamond Engineering.

The Edwin Schipman family are members of the Zion Lutheran Church, Worms.

Edwin continues to live one mile northeast of Worms, on his grandfather's farm.

Edwin is still farming and has his greenhouse and a wholesale vegetable garden. He is widely known for his low prices and quality plants and vegetables.

During the winter months, Edwin also chops wood and tears down houses.

All four of Edwin's children live near Worms. *Submitted by Susan Larsen, Anita Jurzenski and Naomi Schipman*

HERMAN & MARGARETHA SCHIPMAN

Herman Schipman was born May 2, 1846. He came to America in 1880 from Elmshorn, Schleswig-Holstein, German, with his three brothers; William, Adolph, and Juergen. They established a timber claim one mile southwest of Worms. Herman wanted a timber claim of his own, so he later established one just one mile northeast of Worms.

The four brothers changed the spelling from Schippmann to Schipman by first dropping one p, then some time later, dropping the final n.

One of Herman's brothers died and the other brother died shortly after from loneliness and from being homesick. Both were buried in the Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery at Worms.

Herman gave one and a half acres of school ground to District North #42 with the stipulation that if the school dissolved the land would return to them. Whoever thought the country schools would disappear? They all did, though, and the land went back to the Schipman's. He bought the school-house from the school district and moved it from the end of the drive way up to the place. It is now used as a shop on Leonard Schipman's place.

Margaretha Martins was born July 1, 1855. She was married to Claus Borstelman who came from Germany. They had two children: Metta, six years old, and Henry, three years old. They set up a claim southwest of Chapman. He died when a well he was digging caved in on him. Margaretha and the children moved into the Solomon Wagner home where Margaretha helped with the work.

Following the death of her first husband, Margaretha married Herman Schipman. They lived in a sod house on the farm one mile northeast of Worms. They had a well in the yard that she used to provide water for household purposes. A wooden bucket hung on a rope. It was lowered to the water, filled, hauled up out of the well, and carried to the house. The couple had five daughters, Adelia, Mary, Tillie, Helen, and Anna, and one son Reinhard.

Margaretha died of blood poisoning August 26, 1916.

Tillie's husband died eleven months after they were married, so following her mother's death, she returned to Worms from Plano, Illinois, to care for her father.

Herman died August 27, 1922, from dropsy.

Both Herman and Margaretha are buried at Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Worms. *Submitted by Mrs. Frieda Scheer Schipman*

REINHARD & FRIEDA SCHIPMAN

Reinhard Herman August Friedrick Schipman was born April 11, 1894 to Herman and Margaretha (Martins, Borstelman) Schipman on the farm one mile northeast of Worms in the house Frieda now lives in.

He was confirmed April 12, 1908 in Zion Lutheran Church, Worms by Reverend K. John.

Reinhard and Frieda were married April 22, 1919 in her parents home as her father, Carl, was sick and wanted to see his daughter marry. Carl lived only another two months. They drove a team and lumber wagon to Grand Island to get her few belongings.

Frieda Clara Scheer was born July 5, 1897, daughter of Carl Herman and Anna Pauline (Wagner) Scheer three miles (through the section) east of Worms. She was the youngest girl in a family of six children and as such had most of the responsibility of raising her younger brother Emil. Frieda was confirmed April 11, 1911 in Zion Lutheran Church, Worms. Following completion of the eighth grade, Frieda worked several years for a family in Grand Island doing general housework and caring for children. When Frieda was growing up she remembers the motto of their household being "work before pleasure." At the age of seven years she milked a cow everyday and gradually did more work. She remembers helping her mamma make corn-husk matresses, emptying the old ones in the cow-yard, washing the ticking on the washboard by hand, filling it with the new corn husks. They used feather-beds made from goose feathers for covers in the winter.

Reinhard worked very hard providing for his family although he suffered periods of very poor health. Dr. Racines, Palmer, was at the Schipman home often.

In 1925 Delco batteries and wiring were installed providing the family with electric lights. An electric washing machine was now possible as well as ironing without having to heat sad irons on the wood cook-stove. The house was wired with #10 wire to the batteries, enabling them to convert to REA which provided electricity in the spring of 1935 when Worms was connected. At the time only two connections to a mile were allowed, but because of Reinhard's health and through assistance of the neighbors, they were able to utilize the existing wiring and be connected.

Children are: Leonard, born January 1, 1920, married Betty Spangenburg April 19, 1947 — Donald, born June 26, 1935, married Roberta Ewoldt December 27, 1962 and Edwin, born September 13, 1927, married Melba Bergstrom September 10, 1950.

Reinhard died February 25, 1975. Burial was in Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery, Worms.

In 1980 the Schipmans received the Knights of Ak-sar-ben Pioneer Farm Award — recognizing 100 years of continuous ownership of the same farmland within the family.

Living on the farm, Frieda lives a very active life. A charter member of Cheerie Center Extension Club, Dorcas Ladies Aid, church quilting group, enjoys hand and hobby work. A memer of Zion Lutheran Church, Worms, she credits her long life to the Lord's help. She still enjoys working in her vegetable and flower garden and canning. *Submitted from the manuscript of Mrs. Frieda (Reinhard) Schipman*

SCHLONDORF FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schlondorf and sons, Robert and Donald, came to Merrick County in April, 1936, and lived on an eighty-acre farm west of Clarks, owned by Cecil Layton. Prior to that time, Henry had worked on a farm near Stromsburg for six years.

1936 was a hot, dry year with temperatures as high as 117°. Not having electricity, it meant no fans, refrigerators, running water, etc. Many nights we slept outside because the heat in the house was stifling.

In the fall, our crop amounted to twenty-six bushels of corn worth twelve cents a bushel. Mr. Layton gave us his share so we could feed our pigs and six milk cows. Henry worked for $2.00 a day, hauling wheat and oat bundles for neighbors, and helped bale wild hay in the fall.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schlondorf

In 1937, we moved to a larger farm near the Clarks viaduct. At that time we were farming with horses that kept dying on account of sleeping sickness. We had borrowed money from farm security, and it was discouraging to have to pay for these horses that kept dying. Finally it was arranged that we could get a tractor. It was a "B" John Deere on steel wheels, and the first tractor of any kind in the neighborhood. One of the older farmers stopped Henry on the road one day and, kicking the wheels, said, "This will never work". We had the tractor three weeks when a chance come along to trade it for a larger used "WC" Allis on rubber and draw $200 difference, because we had acquired a threshing machine in partnership with one of the neighbors, and the "B" wasn't big enough to pull the thresher.

The boys attended District #5 school until the spring of 1942, when we moved to our present farm one and one half miles east of Clarks. Land was cheap because many people lost farms during the depression. Some of these farms were taken over by insurance companies. All that was required to purchase a farm was usually a down payment around $1500. This was quite a sum for these times, but we managed somehow to come up with the payment. We rented more ground, did custom work, and the

boys and Margaret helped with the milking, usually fourteen to sixteen cows, by hand. Margaret, being raised in town, had never milked before but soon learned, along with raising and caring for as many as 450 laying hens. We leveled the farm, put in irrigation wells, replaced buildings, and built our present home in 1960.

Robert married Vernette Kingsley. They have three sons, Mike, Jon, and Jerry, and two daughters, Jean and Sue.

Donald married Joan Shavlik. They have two sons, David and Dennis.

Robert and sons are farming the land, since we retired in 1976 and are still living on the farm.

Donald is a qualified locomotive engineer for Union Pacific Railroad.

On February 23, 1980, we celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary. *Submitted by Mrs. Henry Schlondorf*

ARTHUR SCHLONDORF

Arthur Schlondorf came to Clarks in October, 1929 as head mechanic for Larson Chevrolet Company located east of the Clarks Bank.

In July, 1930 he was married to Verna Barker, a rural school teacher in York County. Her mother was a daughter of a pioneer couple John and Jane Lumadue of the Pleasant Hill community northwest of Clarks, Nebraska.

Art and Verna rented a house for one year and in 1931 purchased a house on Amity street from the Hoffer Estate, living there for twenty-three years.

They sold this house to Mr. and Mrs. Glen Colby and purchased Mrs. Ida Snider's house in 1953, where they live at the present time.

When Larson Chevrolet sold their business in 1932, Arthur found himself out of work. He tried other places for a job but to no avail. On April 1, 1932 he rented an old building south of the railroad tracks (formerly the Johnson Blacksmith Shop) for $8.00 per month. He had only $10.00 with which to start his garage business, but the first month he earned $85.00.

He would grind valves on a Model T for $1.00. Also in 1932 he purchased an old Studebaker car and built his first wrecker on it. During the life of Art's Garage (as his business was named) six different wreckers were in use. They moved everything from cars and trucks to buildings, trees, land-levelers and haystacks. Mr. Schlondorf says, "I think the worst wreck I ever worked on was when a young couple and their five sons, age two years to ten years, all lost their lives."

In July 1940, he bought the Thomas Lavelle building just south of his present shop and organized it into a garage. Money was difficult to come by and sometimes as payment for his work he would take eggs and chickens. He remembered working seventy-eight hours continuously without sleep on a wrecker job and in the shop during World War II. He did work on trucks, hauling war materials, on farm machinery and welding.

He made old horse-drawn go-digs over to be tractor-drawn machines.



Mr. and Mrs. Art Schlondorf — 1980

On May 6, 1953, he entered into partnership with Glen Colby and in 1960 they enlarged their building making it a 64′ x 60′ structure which they enjoyed for ten years. Art sold his share of the business to Mr. Colby on January 1, 1971.

During their lifetime in Clarks they have enjoyed having an active part in the Methodist Church, the Masonic Lodge, the Eastern Star, the Lions Club, and the Research Club. In 1976 Verna was general chairman of the Clarks Bi-Centennial Committee. Since Art's retirement he and Verna have ferried cars for a Car Dealer in Grand Island. This has taken them to many different towns and states. Since working with cars was Art's first love they have enjoyed this as a recreation rather than work. *Submitted by Verna Schlondorf*

ALFRED & BETTY SCHULETER

I am Mrs. Alfred Schlueter, nee Betty Weller. I was born August 2, 1922, on a farm in Merrick County, five miles south and east of Palmer, Nebraska. My parents were Richard and Louise Wagner Weller.

My husband, Alfred, whose nickname is Pete, was born August 23, 1919, to Gustav and Sophia Peters Schlueter on a farm near Fairview. When he was just a baby, they moved to a farm two miles south of Palmer.

We both attended schools in and near Palmer. We met at a skating rink near Palmer, that being a hobby we enjoy to this date. After going together for five years, we were married on August 17, 1941 at my parents home.

We were blessed with three wonderful children. Gretchen Dunagan was born July 26, 1943, and lives in Grand Island. Pamela Bandt was born in 1946 and lives in Central City. Bill was born in 1949 and lives in Palmer. We have nine grandchildren.

We have lived on a number of farms near Palmer and Archer, and have resided on the Emil Dankert homestead south of Palmer for the past seventeen years. We are active members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Palmer, and I have been a member of the Cheerie Center Extension Club since 1955, serving that organization as president in 1962 and 1967.

Alfred recently built a saw mill and as a hobby makes his own lumber and builds many things such as jewelry chests, candle holders, napkin holders and toys. *Signed, Betty Schlueter*

KARL H. SCHMALE FAMILY

Karl Henry Schmale was born on November 18, 1856, in Kretscherford, Guernheim, Westphalia, Germany, to William and Anna Marie Ilsebein Steinmeyer. His wife, Louise Wilhelmina Dorthea Spanier, was born January 25, 1863, in Lohne Westphalia, Germany, in the Village of Obernek, to Colon Carl Frederich Gottlieb Spanier and Anna Marie Louise Charlotte Geilker Spanier. Karl and Louise Schmale were married in the United States and settled in western Merrick County.

The children in Carl and Louise Schmale's family were: Henry, married to Louise Florke; Lillie, married to Walter Meissner; Herman, married to Alvina Niedfeldt; Charles, married to Anna Knefelkamp; Augusta, married to Fritz Niedfeldt; Bertha, married to Herman Diekhoff; Emil; Oscar, married to Amanda Larson; Otto, married to Edith Michelson; Fred, married to Ann Meyer; and Mary, who died in infancy.

Karl Schmale passed away February 11, 1918, and Louise Schmale passed away April 13, 1915. They are buried at the East Grand Island Cemetery. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

JULIUS AND HULDA SCHMALTZ

In 1911, Julius Schmaltz came to Merrick County from LaCrosse, Wisconsin, where he had been born on February 23, 1888. He was the youngest of nine children, and decided he wanted to work and live in the plains area. He worked at many jobs around Archer, with the main one being the operator and owner of a threshing rig. He was very adept at this, and continued until 1921.

He and Hulda Zamzow were making wedding plans when he was drafted in the fall of 1917. He was among the first to be drafted from Merrick County. They postponed their wedding plans until, in March of 1918, his Captain in Camp Funston told him he might as well get married as he would continue as a trainer. They were married on April 20, 1918, and he was shipped out soon after. He served his country proudly and well in many battles with Company "E" 355th Infantry. He recalls Armistice Day as being cloudy and quiet until 11 a.m., when the sun shone and birds began to sing.



Hulda and Julius Schmaltz

Following his discharge, they rented a house in Archer while he continued his threshing work. Their first child, Betty, was born on August 31, 1920.

In 1921, they moved to the farm owned by Will Templin near Archer, and now owned by Don and Nellie Wegner. On November 11, 1922, a son, Robert, was born. The Schmaltzs continued farming there until 1935 when they moved to the Kate Smith farm near Central City. Betty and Robert attended High School there, and were active in the music department. Hulda and the children were active in the music of the Methodist Church, with Julius active as an officer and usher.

In 1943, they moved to a farm two miles west of Central City on Highway 30. While there, and in later years, Julius served his county well as a supervisor for twelve years, and they continued their active church, lodge and neighborhood activities.

In 1960, they retired to an acreage just north of the present Night and Day Cafe. During their twenty years there, they devoted their time to flowers, gardening and sharing this produce. Until Julius stopped driving, they passed many a day with the delivery of flowers, garden produce or baked goods to those who were ill, suffered a loss, or needed cheering up.

They now reside in an apartment in Sunset Manor. In addition to church and family, the Schmaltzs are still active in Masonic and Eastern Star activities.

As a child growing up, we always had room for one more, and several young people were able to attend High School because of their hospitality. The local school teacher often lived with us, and one time a widow friend and her daughter lived with us for six months as they got a new start in life. Drought and depression affected us, but we never felt poor, hungry, or neglected due to hard work, ingenuity and faith.

Their motto was and is: Count your days by smiles, not tears. Count your age by deeds, not years. *Submitted by Betty Schmaltz Unger*

FRANK & JETTA SCHMIDT

Frank Schmidt was born June 28, 1906. His parents were Frank and Anna Schmidt and came from Art, Germany. Frank and Anna were married February 1, 1903. Their name had been Schmid and they added a "t" when they got to America.

Jetta Marie Walton was born November 11, 1908. She and Frank Schmidt were married January 3, 1934. They had four daughters: Lois (Ayers) of St. Paul, Georgia (deceased), Jetta Lea (Von

Ohlen) of Chapman, and Connie (Waage) of Grand Island.

Frank Schmidt was a carpenter by trade in the Pierce County community of Foster, Nebraska. He died in 1948 of cancer. On December 10, 1952, Jetta Schmidt married Harry Hagen, whose parents came from Norway. Harry was a farmer and passed away in 1963.

Jetta M. Walton's ancestors had come to America from Scotland and England on her mother's side. Her great grandfather was Colonel Isaac C. Barnes, born in Scotland, married to an English girl, Martha Atwater. Colonel Barnes served in the Mexican War of 1812. He and his wife died three days apart. Colonel Barnes bought the first land purchased in Kalamazoo County, Michigan, on January 9, 1835, and he sowed the first wheat there.

Jetta M. Walton's great-great-grandfather Wells was a general in the Revolutionary War. General Wells' father had owned a factory in Vermont and he had a ship load of girls sent from Wales to work in the factory. His son, General Wells, married one of these shop girls.

Jetta M. Walton's father was Louis Walton, whose ancestor, George Walton, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. *Submitted by Jetta Lea Von Ohlen*

HERMAN & REMINNIE SCHMIDT

Herman Dick Schmidt was born March 6, 1896, on a farm near Stanton, Nebraska, one of eight children of August and Anna Busselman Schmidt. He began farming and ranching as a young man, and on November 14, 1916, married Reminnie Dorothy Michaelsen at St. John's Lutheran Church in Platte County.

Reminnie Dorothy, born October 5, 1895, in Platte County, Nebraska, was one of twelve children of Peter Isiach and Anna Becher Michaelsen of Platte Center, Nebraska.

Herman and Minnie had four children; Rose Ann, born August 19, 1917; Arnold Herman, born November 24, 1918; Margaret, born April 7, 1921; and Robert Lee, born October 12, 1922.

About 1925, the family moved to Merrick County through the urging of Minnie's sister, Mrs. Herman (Katie) Kuck, and settled on 160 acres they rented from John Miller, one half mile south of the Kuck place in Prairie Creek Township. The two families were very close, many Sunday's were spent with the whole clan together. All attended Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Worms. The children went to District #30 School. The family moved to Howard County for several years, returning and settling on a ranch two miles west and one half-mile north of Archer, land now owned by Garet Bruns. Schmidt's managed a sheep ranch and raised corn. Herman would go west and buy sheep and the railroad would deliver them to the ranch as the rails ran adjacent to the land. Herman also made plans for the National Corn Picking Contest, which was held on his farm.

Rose Ann graduated from Palmer High School and married Elmer Jacobsen. Margaret graduated from Archer High School and married Ray Hessel. Robert graduated from Archer High School. Arnold graduated from Palmer High School and married Virginia Lee Neudorff, St. Joseph, Missouri, while in the Air Force. The couple had two children, Arnold Junior who later served in Viet Nam, and Susan who now teaches school in Maitland, Missouri, and is married to Rick Smith. Arnold, Jr., (Skip) is with the Postal Service at St. Louis.

World War II completely changed the life of the Schmidt family. Both sons volunteered for the Air Force. Rose Ann, Margaret, and Herman worked at the Ordinance Plant in Grand Island, while Minnie was a cook at the Officers' Club at the airport. Robert had graduated from Morningside College of Iowa as a Second Lieutenant. in the Air Force. He was sent overseas and went down in the English Channel and his body was not recovered for several years. Arnold spent years in the Air Force as a ferry pilot and brought the fighting men back from the war. He flew over 150 missions over the India-Burma Hump. He was killed in the crash of his own light plane. At that time he was a pilot for the T.W.A. and a major in the National Guard. He did not live to see his son, Arnold, Junior. The whole



1916 — Mr. and Mrs. Herman D. Schmidt — 1966

family was saddened by the deaths of the two sons and a younger brother of Herman's who were killed in the war.

Herman and Minnie built two new homes in Grand Island. Both liked to bowl and were the King and Queen of the Platt-Duetsche Bowling League. Both were active in Farmer's Union while still on the farm. They loved barn dances, often held in the big Kuck barn, and took their family along. They believed in a good education for their children, and many a cream can of cream and dozens of eggs went for that purpose. Their children were the first in the family to graduate from high school.

Retiring from Jacobsen-Schmidt Construction Company in 1970, Herman spent his summer months supervising and serving as a guide to the Stuhr Museum machinery collection. He and Minnie celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1966. They were members of Messiah Lutheran Church in Grand Island. Herman suffered a fatal heart attack March 25, 1974, and is buried in Grand Island Cemetery. Minnie continues to live alone in her own home although she has suffered a broken leg since 1978. She lives next door to her daughter Rose Ann who assists her and sees to her needs. *Submitted by Rose Ann Schmidt Jacobsen*

ELMER & ROSE ANN JACOBSEN

Elmer Andreas was born August 27, 1910, son of Carl M. and Hansine Iversen Jacobsen of St. Paul, Nebraska. His parents owned East Side Dairy Farm and Elmer grew up helping his parents with the dairy. After graduating from high school, Elmer attended business college at St. Paul. He has made his living as a carpenter and contractor all his life. First owning Jacobsen Construction, it later became Jacobsen-Schmidt Construction when he was joined by Earl Schmidt.

Rose Ann was born in Columbus, Nebraska, August 19, 1917, daughter of Herman and Reminnie Michaelsen Schmidt. The family moved to Merrick County a few years later, and she was raised on farms in Howard and Merrick Counties. The family attended Zion Lutheran at Worms, and Rose Ann graduated from Palmer High School. She and Elmer were married 1 January 1936.

Rose Ann and Elmer have two daughters. Rosella Ann, born February 8, 1938, on the ranch near Archer, married Glen Daugherty and their children are Rochelle, Marla, Michael (deceased at birth), Alan, and Jane Marie. The Daugherty's farm near Hastings. Joyce Rita, born February 23, 1940, is married to William J. Ryan, Director of Mail Processing at Grand Island Post Office. They have four children; Cheryl, a court reporter for a five-county area including Merrick, Steve, Cindy, and Jeffrey John. William is a Korean veteran.

Elmer was Co-Ordinator for the Carpentry Program at Chadron Job Corps Center at Chadron, Nebraska, in 1970-71. While there he attended Chadron State College, taking Liberal Arts courses in the evenings. He has been an instructor for the Carpentry Program for Carpenter's Union #1187 in Grand Island, working with WW II, Korean, and Viet Nam veterans, and is a charter member of that organization. He served the union as business agent and financial secretary between 1976 and 1980.

Rose Ann has spent her adult life in service to her community and her fellow man. She was listed in Who's Who of American Women 1969-1970 and Who's Who in Mid-West 1970-71. A founder of the Luncheon Chapter of Business and Professional Women in Grand Island, she has served as State Foundation Chairman and Past State Centennial Chairman. She is a member of Grand Island Woman's Club, National Parliamentarian's Association, Grand Island Chamber of Commerce (Past President of Women's Division, Legislative Committee), Toastmistress' Association (Speech Contest Winner), League of Women Voters, Hall County Extension Club, and served on the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women 1963-64 and now belongs to the Prior Club of Nebraska, an offshoot of that commission.

She and Elmer are members of Messiah Lutheran Church, Platt-Deutsche Society, and Elks, Eagles, V.F.W., and the American Legion and their auxilliaries. Rose Ann has been named Woman of the Year by B.P.W., received a Certificate of Honor for twenty-five years of participation in Extension Club, and three Certificates of Merit for outstanding service in advancing the purposes of the National Association of County Recorders and County Clerks.

In elective office, Rose Ann has served Hall County as Register of Deeds for twelve years. During this time she was a founder of The International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers, of which she is now an honorary member. She served as National Director of County Recorders and Clerks, as well as Secretary in 1966 for the Legal Secretary's Association.



Jacobsen Family

She has been a member of Nebraska Legislative Committee for Recorders and belonged to National Secretary's Association and County Official's Association. She has been a Notary Public for many years.

Elmer and Rose Ann live next door to her mother and devote a great deal of their time to her welfare. They enjoy their various organizations and the fellowship of their church, friends, and family. *Submitted by Rose Ann Schmidt Jacobsen*

RAYMOND & MARGARET HESSEL

Raymond Stanley Hessel was born February 15, 1920, son of Charles C. and Stella Bailey Hessel of Grand Island. He graduated from Grand Island Senior High in 1939. On September 10, 1943, he married Margaret Ella Schmidt of Archer, Nebraska.

Margaret Ella was the second daughter of Herman Dick and Reminnie Dorothy Michaelsen Schmidt, and was born April 7, 1921, in Columbus, Nebraska. She lived with her family in Platte, Howard, and Merrick Counties, attended church at Zion Lutheran at Worms, and graduated from Archer High School.

Margaret and Ray have two children. Gloria Jean, born September 30, 1945, married Dick Maschmeyer who is an associate professor in the Accounting Department at the University of Alaska at Anchorage. Gloria teaches Travel Industry Management at a private college, Alaska-Pacific College. They have three children; Ingrid, Adam, and Erica. Hessel's son Robert was born March 17, 1948. He married Linda Krotz, a teacher of French at Senior High at the time, and has two children; Dustin and Hillary. Bobby served in the Army in Korea.

Ray has been County Assessor in Hall County for a number of years. He previously served as Deputy Register of Deeds. *Submitted by Rose Ann Schmidt Jacobsen*

SCHNEIDERHEINZ FAMILY

August Schneiderheinz, son of Carl August and Sylvia Schneiderheinz, was born in Columbus, Nebraska, on April 22, 1886, and died in Central City on July 7, 1956. His wife, Sophie Schneiderheinz, daughter of Peter and Karolina Hoffman, was born in Columbus, Nebraska on April 3, 1889, and died in Central City on March 28, 1974.

In 1906, August began working for the meat market owned by Charles Sayers in Central City.

August and Sophie were married in Columbus, Nebraska, on November 14, 1911, and established residence in Central City.

In 1916, August and Harry Levene purchased the meat market forming a partnership known as the S & L Meat Market. The partnership was dissolved in 1935, and then was known as The Schneiderheinz Market. August operated the meat market, and was later assisted by his three sons, Carl, Earl and Dan, following their service in the armed forces. In 1950, August suffered a stroke and ownership remained within the family until it was sold to Phil Bolling in December, 1962.

The S & L Market was the second meat market in the state of Nebraska to install an electric meat saw. The shop was remodeled in 1931-32, and modern refrigeration units were installed. At one time, all meat products were made on the premises, and there was a smokehouse on the property for the curing of meats. Lard was rendered in the back of the shop. A slaughterhouse, located southwest of the city, was also part of the operation, and had an area where hides were salted down, sometimes to a depth of six feet. A new cinderblock slaughterhouse was built in 1922. August anticipated the need for the preservation of frozen food by means of a locker system, and lockers were installed in the shop in 1939.

August purchased the building which housed the market at 207 G Street, as well as the adjoining building, in which the Justice and Locke Drug Store was located. The market continued to serve the community under the operation of Phil Bolling until December 17, 1975, when both buildings were destroyed tragically by an explosion and fire, during which Phil Bolling lost his life.

August served as Mayor of Central City from August 1934 to 1950. He was a member of the City Council preceding his tenure as Mayor, and was a participant in service to the community for twenty-five years. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias, and served as Grand Chancellor of Nebraska in 1939. He was also state delegate, for the lodge, to the National Convention, held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1948. Sophie was a member of St. Michaels Roman Catholic Church and St. Cecelias Altar Society.

The Schneiderheinzs had five children: Louise S. born: 1912, m: Sidney B. Hutton, Jr., Oxford, Pennsylvania; Grace S. born: 1914, m: Ernest Danklesen, Central City, Nebraska; Carl A. born 1917, m: Erlene Walter, Craig, Colorado; Earl J. born 1923, m: Barbara Cedar, San Antonio, Texas; Dan R. born 1929, m: Elna Pierce, Central City, Nebraska. *Submitted by Mrs. (Louise) Sidney B. Hutton*

WALTER SCHOLZ FAMILY

My father, Walter H. Scholz, first became a resident of this county in 1920, when he moved from Platte County with his parents and four brothers and sisters, to a farm just east of the Hall-Merrick County line. A log house, built by James Vierregg was located on this property, and Dad spoke of it often, when reminiscing about his life there. The log house is presently on exhibit at the Stuhr Museum. His father died in 1930, and the family struggled through the next five years until forced to sell the farm. In the winter of 1936, they settled on a farm in Central township, northeast of Central City. One sister had married in 1930, and now the rest of the brothers and sisters left to make lives of their own. My father and his mother remained.

In 1941, Dad married the former Hellen Grosch of Silver Creek, Nebraska. The ceremony took place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Central City. Three children were born to this union, Allan W., Wade D. (who died in infancy), and myself. Allan and I attended school at District #50, which adjoined our farm. We never had to carry sack lunches; it was just a hop and a skip through the orchard to the house for Mom's good home cooking. After the eighth grade, we went on to graduate from Clarks Public High School. We were baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

We lived the good life. True, there were bad times, but the good outweighed the bad. We would not have changed anything, but sometimes changes are made for us, and our lives take an abrupt, new course. In 1979, at the age of 77, my father died, leaving Allan to assume the responsibilities of the farm, until his untimely death just two months later. Left alone, my mother and I arrived at the difficult decision to move to town. And so, November, 1979, we became residents of Central City. But our hearts, as always, belong to the land. *Submitted by Arlene L. Scholz*

HANS & BERTHA SCHUETT

Hans Schuett, the elder son of Heinrich and Anna Frauen Schuett, was born in St. Margarethen, Holstein, Germany, on December 30, 1909. He received his education in Germany.

As a youth of eighteen, for want of adventure, he came to America in February of 1928 to the home of his uncle and aunt, Henry and Cecelia Frauen Lohman, for whom he worked for five years. He was then married to Bertha Niemoth, daughter of Albert J. and Bertha Loescher Niemoth, prominent Hall County farmers, in Messiah Lutheran Church in Grand Island, Nebraska, on April 20, 1933.

Bertha Niemoth Schuett's grandfather, Frederick T. Loescher, was a veteran of the Civil War, enlisting in the Union Army at the age of sixteen.

At the time of their marriage, Hans and Bertha farmed in western Merrick County and moved to Central City in 1934, where they farmed for six years. They returned to Grand Island in 1940, to the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Sass, which they purchased in 1948. Hans' great uncle, Paul Frauen, owned this farm before it belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Sass.

They are the parents of three children. Robert Ralph was born at Central City on September 24, 1936. He is married to the former Margaret Ahrens of Wood River, Nebraska. They live on a farm in Hall County on the Hall-Merrick line. Before returning to the farm, Robert was a postal clerk in Omaha and later in Grand Island. They are the parents of three children. David, a second year student at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa, is majoring in mass communications. Debra is a second-year student of nursing in Nebraska Methodist Hospital in Omaha from which her mother graduated in 1958. Douglas is a senior at Grand Island Senior High. The summer of 1980, through his German class, he received a trip to Germany as an exchange student. At the same time, his parents hosted a young German student.

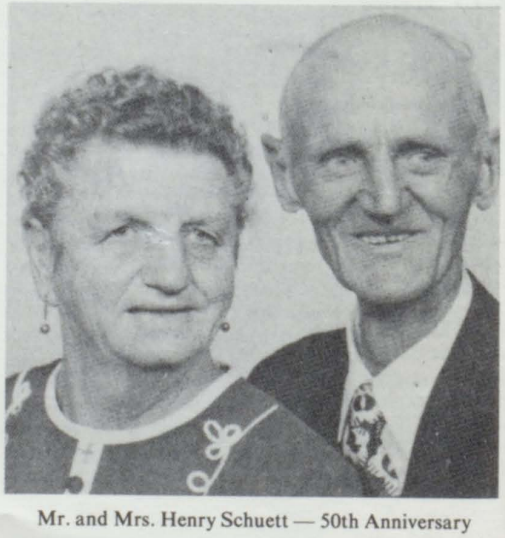
Loren David was born March 3, 1944, at Grand Island and is married to the former Cheryl Lauer of McCook. They both have Masters' Degrees in the field of education. They are the parents of three daughters. Marie Alayne is six and is a first-grade student at Knickrehm School in Grand Island. Marla Anne is three, and Megan Alicia is six months old.

Donna Lynn was born on February 15, 1947, in Grand Island and was married to the late Robert Gardient of Cook, Nebraska. They are the parents of a son, Lynn, who is nine years old and a student in the Nemaha Valley School. Donna is the owner of "The Rag Bag", a variety store in Cook, Nebraska.

Hans and Bertha have farmed in Merrick County their entire married life. Part of this farming operation, consisting of dairy cows and selling Grade A milk, was discontinued in the spring of 1977. They received the Soil and Water Conservation District conservation award in 1963. Hans served for many years on the school board of District #1, Merrick County (Lockwood). He retired in 1975 when his son, Loren, took over farming operations. *Submitted by Bertha Schuett*

HENRY SCHUETT FAMILY

Henry Schuett was born in Fletsee, Schleswig-Holstein Germany on May 14, 1899. He was reared as a young lad and received his education in his native country. In June of 1923 he arrived in the United States and came to Nebraska under the sponsorship of his Uncle Wilhelm Wenn and wife Cacelie Wenn. He worked as a farm helper for the Wenns until March 1926 when he moved to the present family farm Northwest of Chapman, which had at that time been purchased by the Wenn's. The following four years he farmed the land with partners Otto and Alma Kroos also immigrants from Germany. On this property the Wenns put in one of the pioneer wells in this area in 1927 as previous dry conditions forced them to do so. The original well (casing) is still producing water (1981). Since that time four additional wells have been drilled at various times and locations. Irrigation of crops was very laborious compared to today's methods. Mr. and Mrs. Schuett raised mostly corn, some wheat, oats and alfalfa and maintained a livestock enterprise of hogs and dairy cows throughout their farming career. They retired from active farming in 1974, at which time their son Herman took over



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schuett — 50th Anniversary

operation of the family farm.

On June 1, 1930 Henry Schuett married Bertha Kruse at Zion Lutheran Church at Worms, Nebraska. Bertha is the daughter of Herman and Bertha (Tuenge) Kruse of St. Libory, Nebraska. She was born on September 14, 1908, the sixth child in a family of fourteen children. Herman Kruse's ancestors originally lived in Illinois and his wife's father, Carl Tuenge came from Germany and was one of the first settlers in Howard County, Nebraska living in two dugouts northeast of St. Libory.

Upon their marriage, Henry and Bertha Schuett moved to a newly-built farmstead on the same land northwest of Chapman. They have lived on this same farm throughout their married life. Mr. and Mrs Schuett inherited this farm from his Uncle Wilhelm Wenn and wife Cacelie upon Mr. Wenn's death on June 16, 1973.

Mr. and Mrs. Schuett have four children. Their three sons are Herman, born April 3, 1931; Herbert, born January 21, 1935; Harold, born June 19, 1938 and one daughter, Irene, born January 9, 1944. They also have six grandchildren.

On June 1, 1980 Mr. and Mrs. Schuett celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary at the same church in which they were married. *Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Schuett*

HERMAN SCHUETT FAMILY



Herman Schuett Family

Herman Schuett and Ellen Ilene (Holtzen) Schuett live on a farm one and one half miles north and 3½ miles west of Chapman. We have two sons, Kenyon Lee born November 13, 1968, and Roger Allen born November 4, 1970. They are attending Central City Public Schools. An unusual circumstance is that our wedding anniversary and Herman, and Ilene's birthdays are all in April, and both sons birthdays are in November.

Herman was born just one-half mile away, to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schuett, and has lived all his life on the same farm, although there are two separate sets of buildings. This farm is known as the original Stratman Place, and later purchased by Wilhelm Wenn a great-uncle of Herman's. Herman's father, Henry Schuett, is now the owner.

Ilene was born at Benedict, Nebraska, but all of her maiden life lived either at Hampton, Giltner, or Aurora, Nebraska. She has five brothers. Boys are predominant in her family, as all of her brothers that have children also have only boys. A real baseball or football team when they get together.

Herman attended District #42-South school except for the eighth grade when he attended the Worms Lutheran Church School and graduated there in 1944. He then attended Grand Island Senior High School for four years, graduating from there in 1948. After graduation he began farming with his father, later acquiring additional land and expanding the operation. He also farms his father's farm since his retirement.

Ilene attended and graduated from Aurora High School. As a youngster, she was active in the local 4-H group. She worked for ten years at The First National Bank in Aurora. She left there and then worked part time in the County Treasurer's Office, and then later full time in the Clerk of District Court Office in Hamilton County. She then worked as an office clerk at the Farmer's Union Creamery in Aurora until her marriage. Herman was dairy farming with his father at that time. He jokingly says that he only moved her to the production line of dairying.

Roger has always got the ideas on how to fix anything mechanical, and Kenyon loves to grow things, especially garden and flowers. Time will tell if we perhaps may have two more farmers as they grow up.

As a family, we are happy to be participants in a fine community, and are proud to be a part of Merrick County's livelihood. *Submitted by E. Ilene Schuett*

WILLIAM & LENORE SCHUETTE

William Schuette was born in Elvesse, Germany to Karl and Johanna (Herre) Schutte. Here he received his education and was an apprentice blacksmith.

William came to America in 1923 to take over farming operations for his uncle, Henry Beltner, whose health was failing. After the death of Mr. Beltner, he continued to operate the farm for Mrs. Beltner until drouth conditions forced a sale in 1936. Then he was employed in Pontiac until drafted in 1942, serving until 1945. In the Battle of Tunisia in Africa, William was seriously wounded and as a result, received the Purple Heart.

Coming back to Chapman, he worked for the Union Pacific, and farmed after purchasing the Beltner farm in 1947.

It was in 1948 he met his future bride. Lenore Schultz was a daughter of Peter and Emma (Vick) Schultz of Cairo. She attended District #36, and Grand Island High School. To secure a teachers' certificate, she received credits from Nebraska Central College, University of Nebraska and Denver University, and then taught in Howard and Hall Counties until her marriage. This union took place in Cairo Lutheran Church in June of 1949. Their married life has been spent on their farm.

Schuettes have a daughter, Mrs. Donald Berg, and four grandsons: Bradley, Calvin, Steven and Travis Berg who all live next door.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Schuette are active members of Messiah Lutheran Church in Grand Island. William belongs to Messiah Fellowship, Omaha Order of Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and American Legion.

Lenore belongs to Mission Circle, has served on church boards, was Bible School Superintendent for eight years and a Sunday School teacher for twenty five years.

Extension Service has been important to Lenore. A thirty-two year member of Sunshine Club, she has been Chairman of Merrick County Council, on the State Council two years and a 4-H leader for twenty-five years. Lenore has done much work for the benefit of Retarded Citizens, in Merrick County and Bethphage Home at Axtell. Other activities include Merrick Foundation Board, Retired Teachers, Vieregg Study Club, and Secretary of District #2 school for eighteen years. Both William and Lenore are members of National Association of Retired Veterans. During County Fair, you will find Lenore in the Needleworks Department.



William and Lenore Schuette

The Schuettes have visited his two brothers and a sister in Germany on two occasions. Mostly you will find them surrounded by grandsons, busy and happy in their yard and garden at the farm that has been their home all their married life. *Submitted by Lenore Schuette*

SCHULTZ FAMILY

Henry and Louise Gorgen moved from North Bend, Nebraska, in 1903 to a farm north of Clarks, which they sold to Ed Hunscote in 1911. Several of the Gorgen children remain in the Clarks vicinity. Catherine (Katie) Gorgen married Gus Schultz in 1906. He was born in 1865 in Germany and came to Nebraska in 1866. Several years before his marriage he purchased a farm northwest of Clarks. The couple started farming and continued to live on the same farm all their lives.

To this union eight children were born: Caroline (Mrs. Elwyn Craig), Henry, Frank (deceased), Clara (Mrs. Don Graves), LeRoy, Barbara (Mrs. Harvey Phelps), Irene, and Raymond who lives in Texas. Gus died in 1934 and Katie in 1971.

EMIL SCHUTT

Emil Schutt, born May 5, 1906, left Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, June 6, 1923, to work for his Aunt Cacilie Franzenburg Wenn and Wilhelm Wenn near Grand Island in Merrick County. He left behind his mother, Margaretha, father, Markus, and brother Johannes, on a farm. He changed his name from Jurgen Emil to Emil. He had attended twelve years of school in Germany and could understand English. During the years working for the Wenns, he purchased a 1928 Model-T Ford Roadster for $425.



Emil Schutt

Emil married Elverna Nelson in 1932. Three daughters were born, Marjorie, Marlene and Inez. They lived on a farm near Lone Tree on the California Trail just a few miles from Central City. Here, one of the first irrigation wells was drilled after knowing the benefits from Wenn's wells. Emil started farming with a team of six dappled gray horses, progressing to a John Deer-D lug-wheeled tractor which now belongs to grandsons Terry and Todd Bengtson. An International regular tricycle row-crop tractor was used, progressing to modern-day equipment. Elverna died after giving birth to Inez on July 13, 1944, and Inez died three months later.

In 1946, Emil married Elsie Frauen in Worms, Nebraska, her childhood church. Two children, Mona and Marx, were born. They continued to live on the farm near Central City, and all four children attended elementary school in District #48, a one-room country school where all grades were taught by one teacher. Emil was active on the school board.

Marjorie married John "Pete" Bengtson, of Hordville, in 1952. After military service, they returned to Central City. Two sons were born, Terry and Todd.

Marlene met Gordon McMullen at Nebraska State College, Kearney, and they married in 1958. In 1962 they moved to California and their son, Wade, was born in 1967.

In 1964, Emil and Elsie moved into a new house on their farm near Wilhelm Wenn's farm, and Emil is now retired there. Elsie died of cancer in 1978.

Also, in 1964, Marjorie and Pete moved to the farm which had been her childhood home. Terry and Todd attended District #48 until the schools were consolidated. Terry married Diane Hartford from Central City in 1973, and they have a daughter, Teresa, and live in Geneva, Nebraska. Todd married Pam Rerucha from Central City in 1978, and they live on the Central City farm.

Mona married Robert Dubas from Fullerton in 1970, and after college and military service returned to Merrick County. They have two children, Keith and Kristin.

Marx and Mona live on the Wenn farm, and Marx farms the home place. He married Susan Vogel from Grand Island in 1974, and they have two children, Ken and Tracy.

Emil returned to his childhood home in Germany only two times: once in 1937 with Elverna and Marjorie and then, after over 40 years, in 1979 with Marlene and Gordon. He enjoys the love of his four children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

HENRY SCHUTZ FAMILY

Henry D. Schutz and J. Evelyn Mott were married after the manner of Friends in the Meetinghouse of the Central City Monthly Meeting of Friends in the evening of September 3, 1942. This union came after a period of developing respect and friendship beginning in the early 1920's while attending Nebraska Central College and Academy. Evelynn graduated from N.C.C. in the spring of 1925 and Henry from N.C.A. at the same time.

Henry stayed on the farm working with his parents, John W. and H. Sophie vonAschwege Schutz. Evelynn went on to graduate school at Haverford in Pennsylvania. Upon receiving her master's degree in 1927 she resumed work in the teaching field which she had started as a grade school teacher in Kansas. She was on the faculty of Nebraska Central College in the 1930's.

The home was established in the Schutz farm home ten miles west of Central City. Henry's parents were living in the east wing of the house. Henry's mother lived until 1950 and his father died in 1956. Evelynn's parents lived in Colorado Springs at the time. Her mother died in 1944, and her father lived until 1957.

With the help of Millard Powell, Nebraska Yearly Meeting superintendent and part time social worker in Pueblo, Colorado, an infant son and daughter came into their home. On March 2, 1945 William Henry Schutz was born and on March 30, 1945 Elizabeth Ann Schutz came into the picture. Henry and Evelynn felt very fortunate and blessed to have these babies to love and nurture. Bill and Betty went to Scattergood Friends Boarding School at West Branch, Iowa for their ninth and tenth grades and to Central City High School for two years graduating in 1963.



Henry and Evelynn Schutz

Henry and Evelynn were active in church and civic affairs. They had a small beef cattle herd and continued to develop the irrigation system which Henry had started about 1940 using home made well drilling equipment, home made well casing and pump. The principle crop was corn with some soybeans, grain sorghum and grass seed. Some certified seeds were grown, and Henry was a charter member and on the organizing board of The Nebraska Hybrid Seed Growers Association. Evelynn held a number of responsibilities in the local Friends Meeting as well as in the statewide and national Friends groups. She was active in the Merrick County Extension Service being on the board for a time. She is active in Church Women United. Henry was on the board of the county Soil Conservation and Noxious Weed Control Districts early in their histories. He served for an extended time on the board of The Chapman Co-operative Elevator Association and the Mercantile Association affiliated with it.

In 1951 the family received the Omaha World-Herald Award of Merit for soil conservation work. In 1962 the annual recognition of "Farmer of the Year" was given to Henry by the Central City Chamber of Commerce.

In 1980 Evelynn is Clerk of Central City Monthly Meeting of Friends and Henry continues as Treasurer of Nebraska Yearly Meeting of Friends. He is secretary of the Merrick County Historical Society. Both Henry and Evelynn are on the local refugee resettlement Task Force for South Eastern Asia Refugees.

Upon their retirement they have made their home in Central City. *Submitted by Henry and Evelynn Schutz*

JOHN W. SCHUTZ FAMILY

John W. Schutz came to Merrick County in 1897 at the age of nineteen. His father, William Schutz, had arrived in Illinois from Germany as a child of five, in 1852. He fought in the Civil War and became a Methodist clergyman. In 1894 he purchased, sight-unseen, the Garrett Bloomingdale farm in Prairie Creek Township. His son, John, came here from the family home in Quincy, Illinois, to investigate the property and took possession about 1900.

William's brother-in-law, Gerhard Mueller of the Prairie Creek community, was his agent in the land purchase. John lived with his cousin, Gerhard Mueller Jr., in Vieregg Township, during his first years in Nebraska.

In October 1900, John W. Schutz married Sophia, younger daughter of Diedrich and Catharina (Boelts) V. Ashwege, who resided in Prairie Creek Township, six miles southeast of Palmer.

A German Methodist Church stood on a corner of the Aschwege farm. The membership included the Mueller, Boelts, v. Aschwege and Schutz families. The church building was removed about thirty five years ago. The cemetery is still there.

John and Sophie Schutz had three children, Wesley, Henry and Marie. They all attended District #28 elementary school and Nebraska Central Academy at Central City.

Wesley finished college in 1925 and eventually entered the farm electrification business. Marie also finished college, remained single, and now lives in Grand Island. Henry returned home and became a prominent farm operator. The farm gradually expanded to 720 acres. An important factor was the home-made irrigation system which Henry developed during the drought and depression of the 1930's.

Henry Schutz married J. Evelynn Mott, a teacher at Nebraska Central College, in 1942. They were both active in community and church affairs. Henry is presently secretary of the Merrick County Historical Society, treasurer of The Nebraska Yearly Meeting of Friends and a director of the Chapman Co-op Credit Association. Evelynn is involved in



John W. Schutz Family

Delta Kappa Gamma, Church Women United and is Clerk of the local Friends Meeting.

Henry and Evelynn raised two children, William and Elizabeth. Both graduated from Central City High school in the 60's. Betty married Gerald Swanson and they settled on a farm west of Central City. Bill served in the Navy five years. In 1972 he married Catherine Kortum, and took over the home place when his parents moved to Central City. He and Cathy have a young family of three, William Jr., Rebecca Jo, and Margaret Lynn.

Betty and Gerald's children are Dale, Lynn, Jeff and Kim. Their marriage ended in 1978. Betty and the two girls now live in Central City.

Wesley Schutz married Helen Holding in 1926. After ten years in New England they were on the farm in Prairie Creek Township for a short while. Wesley helped develop Merrick County's rural electric system, now a part of Southern Nebraska PPD, headquartered in Grand Island. In 1945 they settled in Columbus, Nebraska, where Wesley managed Cornhusker Public Power District until his retirement in 1973. They have two children, Mary Helen, former wife of John Shortridge of Indiana, lives with two sons in Bethesda, Maryland; John H. Schutz, an automotive engineer, married Julia Floyd of Columbus. With their three daughters they recently moved to California from Michigan. *Signed Wesley Schutz, Henry Schutz*

OTTO SCHWARZ FAMILY

Otto Schwarz was born to Henry and Margaret Schneller Schwarz on September 11, 1878 near Columbus, Nebraska. He married Alvena Harry. She was born near Chapman, Nebraska to Henry



Otto and Alvena Schwarz — 1902

and Johanna Berg Harry on August 17, 1885. Otto and Alvena were married on March 13, 1902. Alvena's parents were also married on March 13, but in 1861. Otto and Alvena had four children: Lawrence, Arthur, Evangeline, and Orville. We received our education at District #28 school in Merrick County. We were members of Zion Lutheran Church in Worms, Nebraska. When Alvena was thirty-four years old, she got pneumonia and died. She was buried at Zion Lutheran Church cemetery in Worms. After her death we endured many hardships. We had many housekeepers, but it was never the same without a mother. Our father raised and taught me how to cook, sew, and iron. He was a very good father and kept his family together. A couple years after her death Otto and children moved to Chapman, Nebraska. He and the boys did dray work which was hauling coal and other things to stores in Chapman. After a few years we moved to Grand Island and then to a ranch at Burwell. We lived there two years and then moved back to Chapman.

Otto then married Blanche Reed on February 14, 1934. They lived north of Chapman. Blanche died June 1958. Otto moved to Grand Island and lived there till his death on August 13, 1972. He was buried at Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Grand Island.

Lawrence of Grand Junction, Colorado married Doris Snideman. They have four children.

Arthur married Ella Trampe. They live in Central City, and have three sons.

Evangeline married Alfred Meyer and have five children. We live in Grand Island.

Orville of Riverside, California married Dorothy Parsona and have four children.



Alfred and Evangeline Meyer

I met my husband Alfred while we lived at Burwell. After three years we were married on March 30, 1933, and worked on the farm for A.M. Smith at Chapman. Our five children were all born in Merrick County and attended Palmer schools. Our children are LeRoy, Delores Omel, Charlene Hiegel, Dennis and Paul. We have nine grandchildren, one great granddaughter and twin great grandsons. In June 1962, we bought a farm south of Grand Island and moved there. We retired and moved to Grand Island in 1976.

The picture is of Otto and Alvena Schwarz on their wedding. Alvena always had long beautiful hair. At one time they cut two five foot long switches from it as it was too heavy for her. *Submitted by Evangeline Schwarz Meyer*

SCOTT — JOHNSON

My mother, Jenny, was born April 3, 1869, and was married to Stephen L. Myers when she first came to Merrick County. (See Myers story.)

My father, Edgar Scott, was born in Kansas, December 27, 1870, son of George and Elizabeth Myers Scott (b. November 18, 1842), who were



Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Johnson — 1978

married December 20, 1866. Elizabeth was a sister of Stephen Myers' father, my mother Jenny's first husband, so mother's two husbands were first cousins.

Father came to Nebraska to work for Emerson Woodman of Kenesaw, and worked on a farm he owned at Archer. While passing through Chapman, he recognized the one and only "Hump Back Dick". He had not known where his cousin's family had moved. He found Mother doing the grocery shopping, so learned of her widowhood. Thus a romance began. They were wed in August of 1910, and I was born January 27, 1912.

My husband, Clarence Johnson (August 1, 1902) came to Nebraska from Minnesota to attend Union College in Lincoln, and remained in Nebraska for his teaching career. We were wed May 19, 1928.

We have six children: Don S., 1929, Mary L., 1931, Rodger W., 1936, Karmen K., 1941, Marcia R., 1943, and Kelli J., 1956.

After the passing of my parents, (father August 3, 1934, and mother, December 26, 1938) I told Clarence if he wished to look for greener pastures, I was willing, so in 1940, we started out. Quite an adventure for poor people, going to California, where he had relatives, Nevada where my half-sister Cora and half-brother Howard lived, as well as Seattle where he had more relatives. We chose Nevada at the urging of my family, where teachers' salaries were better than Nebraska and good retirement system. We do love Nevada. It has been good to us, and the climate is unsurpassed.

Don entered the University of Nevada, Reno, at age fifteen, and upon graduation, 1948, came directly to Fallon to teach. He married Dawna Audrain, a teacher. This same year, we purchased our ranch and moved from Austin, Nevada. Clarence, began teaching in Fallon, retiring in 1962 after 38 years in the school system. We had someone leaving our house for school for forty-six consecutive years. Our youngest began school the year of Clarence's retirement.

Daughter Mary Lou's husband is Director of Weights and Measures for San Bernardino County, California. He will soon retire and they will move to Fallon. Son Rodger is a Lt. Colonel with the National Guard in Carson City, altho his home is in Reno. He married a Boston girl, Lt. Barbara Lynch, a dietitian in U.S. Army. Karmen, a teacher, is wed to Miles Setty, who is an employee of Sierra Pacific. We were justly proud when Karmen was named one of ten outstanding young women in the State of Nevada. Daughter Marcia's husband, Jim Parrish, is a building contractor, and Building Inspector for Churchill County. Marcia is a real estate salesperson. Kelli Jean's husband, John Davenport, a South Carolina boy, is in Civil Service at the Fallon Naval Base. We have sixteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

For a bit of humor to my story, I must add this true tid-bit. I taught a class of little people in the Methodist Church, and Jimmy Fishburn was one of them. He seriously asked me if "hellin" was swearing. Thinking he was asking if my sister, Helen Engquist, who attended church was swearing, I said "No". "Well then," he said, "Our old bull went across the pasture just a hellin." *Submitted by Ruth Scott Johnson*

MARTIN AND MINERVA SCOTT

Martin Van Buren (M.V.) Scott was born at Olean, N.Y. July 24, 1842. He enlisted in the Eighty-fifth New York Infantry, was in the Army of the Potomac, the Seven Days battle, and was later captured in North Carolina and spent time in Andersonville Prison.

On January 1, 1871, he was married at Plainwell, Michigan, to Minerva "Minnie" Galbreath, a seventeen year old girl from Princeton, Indiana. They came to Merrick County that same year and located on the Southeast Quarter 34-14-6, just northeast of Central City, on which Mr. Scott received a Patent in 1878. It was here, in the two-room cabin that their two sons, Claude and Cleave, were born. It was while living in this cabin that Mrs. Scott told of visits by the Indians. On one occasion she climbed on the roof to await her husband's return, and on another, while pregnant with her first son, one of the Indians pointed at her and said "Heap big papoose". Such was the life of a teen-age girl in those days.

It is not believed that Mr. Scott ever engaged in farming, but devoted his efforts to assorted business enterprises in Lone Tree, now Central City. In 1878 they moved to Central City and took up residence in Central City at 1332- 17th Ave. It was here that their two daughters, Maud (Mrs. Elmer) Ross and Myrtle (Mrs. Will) Vieregg were born. He was a charter member of the Masonic Lodge.

Sometime soon after 1900, they moved the house which they had built at this location to the northwest corner of the intersection of "D" Street and "C" Avenue, where it still stands, and erected the beautiful house still standing at 1332- 17th Avenue, owned by George Jensen.



Martin and Minerva Scott

Mr. Scott was an enterprising individual. He was a carpenter, possibly did some of his own building, but on moving to town in 1878 he started a lumber yard which reportedly eventually became the Foster Lumber Company yard along the railroad. Apparently after the sale of this yard, he was the senior partner in a lumber firm known as Scott & Adams, which was purchased by S.D. Ayres in 1897 and operated by him and his sons until in the 1930's. This was along the railroad just north of the present Gambles Store.

It is not known exactly when, but probably in the 1890's, Mr. Scott and his sons operated a furniture store and undertaking parlor at the northwest corner of the intersection of Highways #30 and #14. There is pictorial evidence of this enterprise and adjoining structures.

In 1908 Mr. Scott had acquired, and tore down all the buildings on this corner and built the two-story brick building which was on this location until destroyed by the explosion and fire in 1975. It was in this building that Mr. Scott started the Platte Valley State Bank, and operated it until he sold it in the late "teens" and moved to California.

Mr. Scott passed away May 5, 1931, and Mrs. Scott August 24, 1940.

JOHN SEIM FAMILY

John Johannes Seim was born in Germany in 1846. They came to America in 1867, and to Merrick County, Nebraska in 1872, homesteading in Section 32, Township 13, and this was the Seim home. His father died in 1878, and the mother died in 1886. After the father's death, John married Selma Wagner, daughter of Christlieb and Ernestine (Vogel) Wagner. Ten children were born to them: Anna, Marie, Elsie, John, Edward, Frank, Clara, Amanda, Carl, and Hilda. John died in December of 1928, and Selma died in 1929.

John, the son, married Clara Giesenhagen in 1913, and we lived on the Seim homestead until 1943, when we moved in the fall to the Will Malmrose farm, south of Worms. The house had been built in 1900. It was located two and one-half miles south and one mile east of Worms.

We had only been married a couple of months when we moved out there, and we started with about $1000.00, which was used to buy machinery and horses from John's father. We had seventy head of hogs, and each of the brothers got four cows when they started farming. We farmed 159 acres. One acre was put aside for District 42 South School. John Seim, Sr, had donated the acre to the school. Our four children attended this school, and we boarded the teachers who taught there for many years.

Prairie Creek ran through the farm and when they had big rains at Cairo or west of Grand Island, the creek ran over the farmland and ruined the crops. It also brought me much anxiety when Donald, Alton, and Harold would sit on the bridge and dangle their feet in the creek.

Gypsies used to park on the school grounds, and when the cows were in the pasture around the grounds, the gypsies would milk them for their drinking milk before we milked them. They also came to the door begging for fresh baked bread and would try to keep my attention while another one went through the house.

Peddlers would come around in a mover wagon and try to sell their wares.

We had a dog named Watch that would fetch the cows from the pasture to be milked at night.

Dr. Earle Farnsworth always came to the farm to deliver the children, and when Donald was born in December, Dr. got stuck in the mud one and one half miles from us, and he walked to our place to deliver the baby.

When it came time to thresh, a big steam engine came, and when they came on the place they would blow the whistle. I used to ride the binder when John drove the tractor. When it missed a bundle, I couldn't yell loud enough for him to hear, so he tied a string between us that I could pull to make him stop. One time when I was mowing alfalfa with the horses, the dog ran in front of the mower and his foot was cut off. *Submitted by Mrs. Clara Seim*



John Seim Family — L-r — Alton, Lenora, John, Harold, Clara and Donald.

LeROY & VERONA SEIM

LeRoy and Verona reside on the farm purchased two miles south and two miles east by his grandfather, Johannes John Seim on January 2, 1901. The land was previously owned by the Union Pacific Railroad and by Mark Kurtz and Bill Kurtz before purchased by John Seim.

Johannes John Seim was born in Hesson State, Nieder Gumunden, Germany on October 7, 1846. In 1867 he came to the United States of America. In 1878 John married Selma Wagner, daughter of Johann Christlieb and Ernestine (Vogel) Wagner. Selma Wagner was born in Saxony, Germany, on January 30, 1860. John and Selma had ten children: Anna, Marie, John, Elsie, Edward (Edward is LeRoy's father), Clara, Frank, Amanda, Carl and Hilda.

John died December 2, 1928 and Selma died September 27, 1927. They are buried in the Grand Island Cemetary.

Edward Charles Seim (LeRoy's father) was born May 23, 1888, in Merrick County. He married Dorothea Simonson on March 15, 1911 at the Simonson home. Dorothea was born on October 1, 1886, to Simon and Anna (Jensen) Simonson. Dorothea's father came from Norway in 1871.

Edward and Dorothea had four sons: Leonard, born May 9, 1912-died March 4, 1913; Reynold Edward, born October 15, 1913; Alvin Elmer, born January 24, 1919-died January 20, 1969; and Leroy John born December 2, 1928.

Edward built a sand bucket wooden tower irrigation well drilling rig in the early 1930's. In 1940 Edward had Harold Fechtner (Harold is a first cousin of LeRoy's wife, Verona) build another well drilling rig. When LeRoy was nine years old he started to go with his father when he did drilling. After the second rig was built in 1940 and LeRoy was twelve years old he went with his father and had the responsibility of running the clutches on the rig while the drilling was being done.

LeRoy attended his eight grades of school at District #42. He was baptized and confirmed in the Zion Lutheran Church at Worms.

On October 2, 1949, he married Verona Loraine Glause at Zion Lutheran Church in Worms.

Verona was born to Philip William and Stella Rosa (Wagner) Glause on October 23, 1930. She has seven brothers and one sister.

Verona was baptized and confirmed in the Zion Lutheran Church at Worms, and attended all of her grade school years there. She attended high school at Concordia Teachers College, at Seward Nebraska, and also at St. Paul High School, and graduated from St. Paul High School. Verona took some off-campus college courses and then taught school in Howard County.

When LeRoy and Verona were first married they lived on her grandfather's place (The Paul Wagner farm) owned by her parents, William and Stella Glause. They then moved to the Corey Bice farm until the spring of 1952. Edward and Dorothea retired in 1952, residing on an acreage on their farm. LeRoy and Verona moved to the present site in March of 1952. Upon his father's retirement in 1952, LeRoy assumed the irrigation well drilling business. In the winter of 1954 and spring of 1955, LeRoy with the help of John Helzer of Worms, built a new well drilling rig. This rig was used until he purchased a Winter Weiss rig from Denver, Colorado, on December 10, 1975. At the present time, LeRoy with his sons, Daniel, Kenyon, and Robyn are farming and are in the irrigation well drilling business.

LeRoy and Verona have four children: Jacquelyn Lee, Daniel Lynn, Kenyon Howard, and Robyn Randall. The entire family attends Zion Lutheran Church. *Submitted by LeRoy and Verona Seim*

ALLAN & JACQUELYN ROTH

Allan Ray Roth was born March 30, 1951, son of Marvin and Margareta Roth of Bancroft, Nebraska.

Jacquelyn Lee Seim was born July 8, 1950, daughter of LeRoy and Verona Seim of Worms. She is the oldest and only daughter, and was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran at Worms. She attended parochial grade school at Worms and graduated from Central City High School.

Jacquelyn attended Concordia Teacher's College at Seward, Nebraska. Upon graduation she taught parochial school in Chicago, Illinois, for five years. She then moved back home and was employed at the First National Bank in Grand Island.

On September 23, 1978, Alan and Jacquelyn were married at Zion Lutheran Church in Worms. The couple reside in Grand Island and both are employees of the First National Bank. *Submitted from manuscripts by LeRoy and Verona Seim*

DANIEL & MICHELLE SEIM

Daniel Lynn Seim, born December 4, 1952, son of LeRoy and Verona (Glause) Seim, and Michelle Clara Benson, born March 20, 1953, daughter of Jack and Janet Benson of Minden, Nebraska, were married July 2, 1978, in the Methodist Church in Minden, Nebraska.

Daniel was baptized and confirmed in the Zion Lutheran Church at Worms. He attended his elementary grades at the parochial school of Zion Lutheran School in Worms. Daniel graduated from Central City High School, then attended Concordia Teachers College at Seward, Nebraska and Kearney State College at Kearney, Nebraska.

Michelle attended her elementary and high school years in Minden. She attended the University of Nebraska and was employed at the bank in Minden until her marriage.

They are members of the Zion Lutheran Church in Worms.

Since their marriage, they have made their home on the Fauquier Farm. Daniel's parents purchased the farm from the Fauquier family in March 1978. The farm belonged to the United States Government and was homesteaded by the Fauquiers and remained in the Fauquier family all those years until purchased from them by LeRoy and Verona Seim in March 1978.

Daniel has one sister, Jacquelyn, and two brothers, Kenyon and Robyn.

Michelle has one sister, Cindy, and one brother, Bentley.

Daniel and Michelle are the parents of one son, Daniel John, born June 9, 1979.

Daniel is farming, and in the irrigation well drilling business with his father, LeRoy, and two brothers, Kenyon and Robyn. *Submitted by LeRoy and Verona Seim*

KENYON & CHERYL SEIM

Kenyon Howard Seim, born July 11, 1957, and son of LeRoy and Verona (Glause) Seim, and Cheryl Ann Peters, born July 9, 1959, and daughter of Billie Jr. and Anita (Heins) Peters, were married October 2, 1977 at Zion Lutheran Church in Worms, Nebraska.

Both Kenyon and Cheryl were baptized and confirmed in the Zion Lutheran Church in Worms. They also attended their elementary grades at the parochial school of Zion Lutheran School in Worms. Both of them attended and graduated from Central City High School.

Cheryl graduated a licensed beautician from the Grand Island Beauty School of Grand Island, Nebraska.

Kenyon attended the University of Nebraska for a semester and then decided to go into farming.

They are members of Zion Lutheran Church in Worms.

Upon their marriage they have made their home on the Joseph Nabity Place. This farm was purchased by Kenyon's parents from Joe and his wife, Wilhelmina, in September 1971.

Kenyon has one sister, Jacquelyn, and two brothers, Daniel and Robyn.

Cheryl has one brother, Michael, and one sister, Colleen.

Kenyon and Cheryl have one son, Noah Wesley, born October 17, 1980.

Kenyon is farming and in the irrigation well drilling business with his father, LeRoy, and two brothers, Daniel and Robyn. *Submitted by LeRoy and Verona Seim*

ROBIN RANDALL SEIM

Robyn Randall Seim was born September 12, 1960. He is the youngest child of LeRoy and Verona Seim and was raised on their farm two miles east and two miles south of Worms. Robyn was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran in Worms. He went through parochial school there, then graduated from Central City High School.

Robyn attended the Grand Island Technical School. He is at home with his parents, and is farming and in the well drilling business with his father, LeRoy, and two brothers, Daniel and Kenyon. *Submitted from manuscripts by LeRoy and Verona Seim*

REYNOLD SEIM FAMILY

Reynold Seim was born October 15, 1913, in Section 27 of Merrick County, the son of Edward C. Seim and Dorothea Simonson Seim. His grandfather, John Joshua Seim came to America in 1867. He lived in Michigan for five years and then moved to Merrick County, Nebraska in May, 1872 and homesteaded in Section 32.

I attended school in District #42 South. In October 1935 I went to Utah where I worked in the Copper Mines. In July, 1936 I came home and married Olga Meyer whose father was pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Worms. Olga was born in Steger, Illinois, on November 23, 1915, one of fourteen children. She graduated from High School in Oxford, Nebraska in 1933. We lived in Utah until 1944 when we moved to Nebraska and lived on the Corey Bice Farm. We lived there until 1950 when we moved to our present home in Section 20. We had five children.



Mr. and Mrs. Reynold Seim — 1936

Judith was born in Salt Lake City on August 21, 1937 and with her husband and five children reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

William was born September 15, 1939 in Salt Lake City. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and is an accountant in Omaha, Nebraska. They have three children.

Jerry was born June 18, 1942 and died January 15, 1953 of complications from severe burns suffered in a farm accident October 23, 1952.

Robert was born June 18, 1945 in Grand Island. He is now residing in Republican City, Nebraska and is the father of five children.

Marilyn was born November 28, 1949. She attended grade school in Worms and graduated from High School in Grand Island. She then attended college in Winfield, Kansas for two years and then went to Concordia College in Seward where she obtained her degree in education. She taught school for three years in Denver. On June 16, 1973 she married Jeffrey Havekost of Monroe, Michigan and are the parents of three children. Jeffrey teaches at St. John's Lutheran school in Denver, Colorado.

We are the grandparents of sixteen grandchildren which we enjoy. We still live on the same farm. We are not farming but I still do a little land leveling while enjoying our semi-retirement. We enjoy lots of out-of-town company who have named our large home "The Seim Hilton". *Submitted by Reynold Seim*

OSCAR & LEONA SELLE

I was born January 13, 1918, in rural Divide County, North Dakota. My wife, Leona Raaum Selle, was born August 3, 1925, at Fortuna, North Dakota.



Oscar and Leona Sells

We were married December 6, 1942, and farmed in that area until 1974 when we sold out and moved to Merrick County, Nebraska, one mile east of Grand Island.

We had four children. We lost our youngest daughter, Beth A., to Hodgkin's Disease on November 24, 1979, at the age of eighteen. She fought the disease for five years.

Leon O., the older one of our two sons who live in Grand Island, served several years in the Peace Corps in Africa and is now selling N.F.U. Insurance and has consistently been the top full-line insurance producer in Nebraska.

Jerome K. served in Viet Nam and is now District Manager for N.F.U. Insurance. He has a territory of nineteen counties in Nebraska.

Sonya J. was a school teacher and is now married to Tom Collins who is Vice President of Agricultural Loans at the First National Bank in Grand Island. They have two sons and a daughter.

Leon is married to Beth Cochren and they have two daughters.

Jerome is married to Pat Kennedy and they have a daughter and two sons.

While living in Dakota I was active in a variety of community affairs. Since moving to Nebraska I have chosen a much slower pace.

When moving to Nebraska we took with us a few head of registered Welsh Black cattle and are producing and selling breeding stock.

I am also a distributor for Curtiss Breeding Industries, selling semen and nitrogen.

Leona and I plan to spend the hottest part of the summer in Dakota. *Submitted by Oscar Selle*

JOHN R. SENKBILE FAMILY

John Richard Senkbile was born September 9, 1891 at Chapman, Nebraska, to Adolph and Margaret Alice (Kandler) Senkbile.

He attended school at District #3 in Chapman, Nebraska, and continued school until the eighth grade, then began working for Hord and Company in Central City.

He then married Esther Alice (Gaw) Senkbile, February 14, 1923, and purchased a 160 acre farm nine miles north of Central City in the Fairview community.

To them one son was born, Richard Dwaine, born February 11, 1927 in the Bess Farnham house.

John stayed on the farm until 1965, when he was injured in a farm accident and passed away in April of that year.

His wife then moved into a house in the northern part of Central City and lived there until she became ill and had to be moved to the Long Term Care part of the hospital. She passed away January 1st of 1978. *Submitted by Ryan Senkbile*

RICHARD D. SENKBILE

Richard Dwaine Senkbile was born in Central City, Nebraska, on February 11, 1927, in the house which is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Mike Gahagen. Richard is the son of John Richard and Esther Alice (Gaw) Senkbile. Richard was baptized in the spring of 1943 at Fairview United Methodist Church. He was sixteen years old at the time. Richard went to grade school at District #18 and completed his education when he graduated from Central City High School in May of 1945. He then started farming with his father, and in January of 1946 went into the Army and was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington.

After returning, in August of 1947, he returned to farming. He met Ramona Mae Myers in March of 1952. Ramona was born at Tekamah, Nebraska, on June 12, 1933, and moved to Merrick County with her parents and brother Herbert when she was just a baby. Her parents are Bert and Rose (Morys) Myers. She graduated from Clarks High School at Clarks, Nebraska, in May of 1952.

Richard and Ramona were married on September 9, 1952. When first married, they lived in Charles Matthew's tenant house, and Richard worked on his off hours for Charlie to pay the rent. On December 10, 1956, they moved two miles west to the farm formerly known as the Morg Newlon Farm, and have lived there ever since.

Richard and Ramona have six sons; Rodney Dean, Randall Alan, Robert Douglas, Ronald Eugene, Richard Lloyd, Ryan Dale.

Rodney is married to Katherine Jean Babb of Fullerton, and they have a daughter, Stacy Lea, who is five years old and just started Kindergarten this year. Their second daughter, Sheila Mae was born December 5, 1980. Randy is helping his father with the farming and is living in a house in town that was left vacant by his grandmother, Esther Senkbile, when she was taken to Litzenberg Hospital Long Term Care Unit.

Robert is married now to Rosalie Rene Regan of Fullerton, and they have a daughter, Brandy Lynn, who is two and a half years old.

Ronnie is living at home and working at Atlantic Homes in Central City, Nebraska.

Richard L. and Ryan are at home yet and attending Central City Public Schools. Richard L. is in the ninth grade and Ryan is in the eighth grade.

Rosalie and Katherine are first cousins. Their mothers, Rosalie (Neumann) Regan, and Doris (Neumann) Babb are sisters. Ramona also graduated from High School with Rosalie Senkbile's father, Donald (Red) Regan. All are members of the Fairview United Methodist Church at Central City, Nebraska. *Submitted by Rosalie and Ramona Senkbile*

RALPH & ELLA SEVERANCE

Ralph Stanley Severance was born August 7, 1881, in Grundy Center, Iowa and came with his parents, Frederick and Katherine Graves Severance, and his sister, Grace, to a farm in Mead Township, about 1887. He attended rural school #51. He liked to fish and hunt, and told of going through prairie grass, shoulder high, on his way to



Ella H. Severance

the creek one and one half miles south of his home. In 1894, a bull turned on his horse and Ralph was thrown, causing a badly broken hip. This didn't heal properly, and left him with a slight limp for life.

In 1901, he graduated from Central City High School where he had known Ella Halstead. She was born November 9, 1882, the daughter George and Isadore Haskell Halstead. She graduated in 1900 and taught in Merrick County schools for two years, then went to Minnesota where her parents were. At Star Lake, Minnesota, on March 9, 1905, she married Ralph, her high school sweetheart, who had gone to Minnesota to bring her back to Merrick County.

They built a house in Mead Township, and developed a successful grain and dairy farm. Here they raised their children: Helen, Ralph H. (always known as Bud), Donna, and Phil H. Their home was always well supplied with books, magazines, and newspapers. They were the proud owners of one of the first radios in the community. The whole family worked together to make things go, and the children remember vividly helping with the many chores associated with farming with horses, milking cows, and caring for hogs, chickens, and a large garden. New farming methods were adopted as they came along. The biggest change came in 1945 when electricity became available. Visiting with neighbors, school parties, church socials and going to town on Saturday night were welcome diversions.

One by one the children left home and married, but returned often for family celebrations and for holidays and birthdays. Grandchildren were welcome house guests on occasion. While the grandchildren who lived close received the most attention, the rest were also very dear to "Grandad" and "Lolly".

Helen married Ralph Elliott, and their home is in Omaha. Bud and his wife, Edith (Morris), when they are not traveling, make their home in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Phil married Maxine Hagey, a Merrick County girl, and they live in Fort Collins, Colorado. Donna and Rexford Ferris and their children have always farmed close to the home farm.

When Ralph died in 1953, Ella stayed on in her farm home until 1957, when she bought a small house in Central City and moved to town. In 1965, she became one of the first residents of the new retirement home, Merrick Manor. Here she was busy with friends, keeping in touch with her children, encouraging her twelve grandchildren, and giving her twenty-three great-grandchildren much loving attention.

She died January 17, 1981. She and Ralph are buried in the Central City Cemetery. *Submitted by Donna Ferris, March, 1981*

RALPH H. SEVERANCE

Ralph S. Severance first met Ella Halstead when, high in the tree, he shook down apples for a neighbor and his daughter. Their later marriage brought together two families both of whom had come to America only fifteen years after the Pilgrims had landed at Plymouth.

John Severans, the patriarch of the Severance family, and his wife Abigail, sailed in the ship Elizabeth from Great Britain to New England in 1635. Thus, Massachusetts became the home of my forebearers for the next 200 years. Their names were John 1, John 2, Joseph 3, Jonathan 4, Joseph 5, and Pliny 6. They lived mostly in the Deerfield, now Greenfield area.

In 1856, Pliny's family moved by ox team to Grundy County, Iowa. Pliny's son Fredrick was fifteen at the time.

Frederick served in the Civil War. At its end, he married Katherine Graves and settled near Grundy Center, Iowa. My father, Ralph, was born there. In 1887, Frederick moved to Merrick County, Nebraska. In 1905, my father Ralph married Ella Halstead, my mother.

Meanwhile, Jonas 1 Halstead, patriarch of Mother's family, born in England, came to Boston in 1635. His family named Timothy 2, Jonas 3, James 4, James 5, Job 6, Ephron 7, and George 8, lived in New York and Pennsylvania for the next 240 years.

My grandfather, George, moved to Merrick County, Nebraska in 1880. His homestead and sod house were located four miles west and eight and one half miles north of Central City. My mother, Ella,



Ralph and Edith Severance

was born there in 1882.

After their marriage, Ralph and Ella acquired land, three miles west and nine north of Central City. On this farm they raised four children, Helen (Mrs. Ralph Elliott), Ralph, Donna (Mrs. Rexford Ferris), and Phil.

I, Ralph, attended District #19 school, Central City High School, and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. I was granted two degrees, BSc in Engineering and MSc in Physics.

In Lincoln, I met Edith Morris of Cozad, Nebraska, and in 1934 we married. We lived in Grand Island and Kearney for three years and then moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where we now reside.

Edith and I have two sons, Alan Wayne, who with his wife Patricia lives in Pittsburg, and Ralph Owen of Monticello, Utah. Both are engineering graduates of Purdue University.

I worked in various engineering positions for the Magnavox Company and in 1964 retired, after twenty-seven years. Since then, our travel trailers have traveled 200,000 miles and we plan to continue to travel.

My father is gone now, but Mother in her ninety-eighth year is very much with us. We enjoy her conversation and ready wit. In 1975, when Edith and I attended the fiftieth anniversary reunion of the CCHS Class of '25, Mother was the honored guest. She was celebrating her seventy-fifth anniversary of the Class of "noughty nought".

Edith and I visit Merrick County several times each year. The farm where I grew up now belongs to Rex and Donna Ferris. It is a joy to visit there and to enjoy a family reunion where Dad and Mom raised their family. *Ralph H. Severance*

H.B. & FRANCES SHELTON

On November 18, 1914 my parents, Harry Britton Shelton and Frances Gosnell, were united in marriage at the Baptist Parsonage in Chapman, Nebraska.

My mother born June 12, 1890 was the daughter of Thomas N. Gosnell and Clara Agusta Pemberton. Thomas had homesteaded in the Prairie Creek neighborhood and my mother was raised with five sisters and a brother on the homestead and attended District #28, known as the Gosnell School. She was graduated from the Central City High School in 1907. For five years after graduation she taught school in several country schools. For the next two years she and her brother, Tom Gosnell, owned and operated a confectionery in Central City.



Mr. and Mrs. H. Britt Shelton

William C. Shelton and Elizabeth Lescher Shelton were the parents of my father, born October 24, 1889. They lived on a farm east of the college. Britt, as my father was known, attended the Central City Public Schools and was graduated from the Nebraska Central College Business School. In his late teens he started farming the farm on which he was raised. He and my mother lived there until they sold the farm in 1968 and moved to Central City.

Grandfather Shelton was an auctioneer and taught my father who worked with him as a young man. Later a partnership with Jake Mohr was formed. They worked as an auctioneering team for many years. On his farm, my father started one of the early "Community Sales" in the late twenties. My parents operated a dairy for many years during the 30's and 40's. My mother was active in the Methodist Church, P.T.A. and Pythian Sisters.

To this union three daughters were born. My sister, Frances Annette, who passed away at age six, my sister, Elinor Louise, (May 2, 1921) and myself, Mary Elizabeth, (October 27, 1915). We attended the Central City Schools and were graduated from the Central City High School.

Elinor Louise, now Mrs. C.J. Edmundson of Bakersfield, California was graduated from the Lincoln School of Commerce and worked in Central City and Beatrice, Nebraska. She also worked for the Union Pacific in Omaha and was later transferred to Los Angeles. She has one son, William Britton Stich (thirty-three) who is a film editor for Columbia Pictures.

Mary Elizabeth, now Mrs. Ralph Hubbard of Watertown, South Dakota, was graduated from Northern State Teachers College, Greeley, Colorado and taught in the elementary schools of Central City and Grand Island. She was Elementary Supervisor in the grade schools of Watertown. She has two children, Bruce Alan (thirty), who is an attorney in Sturgis, South Dakota and Jean Ann (twenty-eight) a high school counselor in Hardin, Montana.

My father passed away the last day of February 1978 and my mother (ninety) is a resident of the Bethesda Care Center. They belong to the Methodist Church. *Submitted by Mary Elizabeth Shelton Hubbard*

MAX H. SHELTON FAMILY

Maximilian Haley (Haley was his grandmother Shelton's maiden name) was the oldest child of William Cheney and Elizabeth Lescher Shelton. He was born February 15, 1882, at Monmouth, Illinois. He had two sisters: Clara Jane and Bessie; and three brothers: Harry Brittain, William Cheney, and Paul Lescher. His parents separated, and his father later married Hattie Quisenberry and had three more children: Martha Ellen, Tom, and Bryan.

Max came to Merrick County before he was two years old. His father purchased a farm two miles west and seven and three-fourths miles north of Central City in December of 1883. He attended the District #19 (Mead) school.

Elsie Alice was the seventh child of Edward and Martha Mountjoy Quisenberry. She was born near Alda, Nebraska, on January 29, 1891. She had five sisters: Fern, Hattie, Gert, Joy, and Gladys; and three brothers: Frank, Paul and Alden. her brother Frank died when he was just twelve years old.

In 1898, when Elsie was seven years old, her father died very suddenly of a heart attack. About a year later, her mother moved with her children to a farm home near Central City, on what was known as the "College Section". The children attended the District #8 school.

Max and Elsie were married April 5, 1910, at Central City. They lived on a farm one mile west and two and one half miles north of Central City for over fifteen years. About eight years after they moved from here, they moved onto the family farm which



Mr. and Mrs. Max H. Shelton

Max's father had purchased when they came from Illinois.

They raised a family of six children: Mildred Fern (Mrs. Fred Christensen) of Lincoln, William Cheney of Central City, Max Haley of Central City, Elsie Alice (Mrs. Ray Powell) of Austin, Texas, James Mountjoy of Grand Island, and Frances Marie (Mrs. Robert Lee) of Houston, Texas.

Elsie was an early and long-time member of the Friendship Club.

Max devoted his entire life to farming. He raised a lot of livestock, including horses, cattle, hogs, and a few sheep. Crops, mostly corn and wheat, were raised primarily to feed the livestock. In the early days he baled hay, from the stack, with a horse-powered baler. The bales had to be tied by hand. Part of them were stored in large hay barns, the rest were hauled into town and loaded onto boxcars to be shipped to various markets.

Max passed away at their farm on April 21, 1953, and Elsie in Austin, Texas on January 27, 1958. *Submitted by Rose A. Holmes (Granddaughter)*

W. CHENEY SHELTON FAMILY

William Cheney and Effie Shelton are both life-long residents of Merrick County. Cheney, son of Max H. and Elsie (Quisenberry) Shelton, was born at Central City on April 9, 1912, the second of six children. He was raised with three sisters: Fern, Alice and Marie; and two brothers: Max and James. He attended rural District #13 (after the consolidation of the rural schools, this school building was moved into Central City by Dr. Greving, and became a dental office across the street south from the Central City Clinic). He graduated from Central City High School in 1930. He attended the Methodist Church in Central City.

Effie, daughter of Frank and Lelia (Wilson) Rose, was born at Clarks on November 24, 1909; the seventh of eight children. She was raised with two sisters: Mabel and Alice Mae; and five brothers: Walter, Ralph, Ernest, Clarence, and Wilbur. She attended the rural Pleasant Hill School and graduated from Clarks High School in 1927. Her family attended the Pierce Chapel Methodist Church, and enjoyed making musical contributions at both church and community affairs.



Mr. and Mrs. Cheney Shelton

After graduation Cheney began farming with his father, and Effie taught in Merrick County rural schools until they were married May 24, 1933.

They raised a family of four children: Rose Ann (Mrs. Richard Holmes) of Central City, Jane (Mrs. Virgil Thorne) of York, William C. (Bill) of Grand Island, and Ernest of Central City.

In 1948, Effie returned to teaching. She taught in rural Merrick County and in the Fullerton Public Schools until 1972, when she retired with a total of thirty years.

Cheney continued to farm with his father until 1953 when they moved onto the family farm, located two miles west and seven and three-fourths miles north of Central City. In 1958 they purchased this farm, and Cheney became the third generation of his family to own it. His grandfather, William Cheney Shelton had purchased it on December 4, 1883 from Mr. Clark Newcomer, who had homesteaded it on June 30, 1880. At this time, the farm consisted of 160 acres and he paid $3000.00, assuming a mortgage of $800.00 at the rate of ten per cent interest. This information comes from the original Homestead Certificate and Warranty Deed which was recorded on January 1, 1884.

They continued living on the farm until 1969, when they purchased a home in Central City and moved into town. At this time Cheney began commuting back and forth, and son Ernie and family moved onto the farm.

They were charter members of the Merrick County Saddle Club. Cheney rode with their drill team and the horseback square-dancing group. He also participated in calf-roping and numerous other rodeo events. They always kept saddle horses, which the family enjoyed. They also raised hogs and other livestock, and always had milk cows.

They were members of the Fairview Methodist Church, and later transferred their membership to the Central City United Methodist Church after moving into town. *Submitted by Rose A. Holmes (Daughter)*

WILLIAM SHIPMAN FAMILY

William Shipman, a native of Glugstatt, Schleswig Holstein Germany was born May 12, 1870 to John and Anna (Nagel) Shipman. He was the seventh child in a family of seven sons and four daughters who were (eldest to youngest) Peter, Henry, Margret, John, Herman, Kathleen, William, Jacob, twins Dora and Emma and Emil.

They lived near a canal. In the winter time they would skate on the canal to the nearest town to get their supplies. Most of their traveling was by canal. In the summer time they would travel by boat on the canal. Jobs were not very plentiful and the threat of war was imminent, so William and his brother, Jacob, decided to come to the United States. Two brothers, John and Henry, were already here. William and Jacob came over from Germany in March, 1888. The boat they came over in was the Retreeka. This was Retreeka's last trip across. After landing in New York, it was torn down and scrapped.

Neither William nor Jacob could speak any English. From New York they came to Grand Island arriving there right after the storm of 1888. William joined the Messiah Lutheran Church, Seventh and Locust, Grand Island five years after it was organized and remained a member throughout his life time. In 1893, a younger brother, Emil, came over from Germany making a total of five brothers that came across.

William's first job was working for the Windolph family who farmed where the Swift Meat Packing Company now is (southeast of Grand Island). The farm house still stands there. After three years, he went to work for a farmer named Siefert who lived north of Boelus, Nebraska. In 1899, he went to work at a Dairy in St. Joseph, Missouri, returning to Grand Island, Nebraska in 1903.

On March 22, 1904 William Shipman and Whilemina (Minnie) Hargens were married. Minnie Hargens was born February 2, 1884 to Peter and Margretha (Schultz) Hargens. Minnie was the youngest of six daughters: Kate, Wiebke, Margretha, Mary, Anna and Minnie. Margretha died in February, 1884 and Peter died May, 1938.



William and Whilemina Shipman

William and Minnie Shipman raised a family of seven sons and four daughters. They are: Peter, John, Olga, Anna, Albert, Herbert, Linda, Alvina, Harry, Henry, Ervin (deceased), baby (deceased).

The century William lived in had been the most fruitful in world history he believed. He had seen everything from the breaking plow pulled by horses to color television and man walking on the moon. The going was rough many times during his seventy-five years of farming — going through the drouth and depression of the 1930's. He sold hogs for ten cents a pound and corn for ten cents a bushel.

William Shipman celebrated his one hundredth birthday on May 12, 1970.

Minnie Shipman died March 25, 1950 age sixty-six. William Shipman died May 9, 1971. There are sixteen grandchildren and twenty-eight great grandchildren. *Submitted by Mrs. Leonard Dickman*

JOSEPH AND ROSELLA SHIREY

Joseph F. Shirey was born at Knoxville, Iowa, Dec. 30, 1870, son of Isaac and Schulda Shirey. His wife, Rosella Clark Shirey, was born at Anita, Iowa on March 28, 1875, daughter of Silas and Nancy Cannon Clark. They were married in 1893. They moved to KeyaPaha County, Nebraska in 1903, where Joe fed cattle for a rancher. In 1907, they came to Merrick County, traveling in a box car with their furniture and five children, the youngest one seven weeks old.

Joe worked hard at many jobs. The first one was feeding cattle and doing farm work for T.R. Lambert who hired him to come to Palmer.

The family increased to ten children and one adopted son. The schools that were attended were District #36, two miles north of Palmer, and District #49, Palmer Public School.

Joe was a Democrat, his wife a Republican, and the family through the generations are divided on politics. Also, several denominations of churches are included in their lives. The first attended in Palmer was the Christian Church.

Their first home was on the Lambert Ranch. Their last, in Palmer, was on Vale Street in the east end of town. For a number of years it was the only house on the block, and the other lots were used for garden spots by their owners, playground for the neighborhood children, and alfalfa patches.

Mrs. Shirey died in 1930 and Mr. Shirey in 1954, buried in Rosehill Cemetery in Palmer.

Their children were: Inez, born in Iowa in 1895. She married Harry Ward of St. Paul. They had six children. She died in 1974, he in 1962. Buried at St. Paul.

Earl was born in Iowa in 1898. Died in 1965. Buried at Palmer. Oral born in 1900 in Iowa. Died in 1967. Buried at Palmer.

Grace, born in 1903 in Iowa. Married Harold Prowett who died in 1972, buried at Palmer. They had one daughter.

Ethel, born in 1905 near Springview. Died in

1906. Buried at Springview.

Nancy, born in 1907 at Springview, married John Burch. They had one daughter. He died in 1957. She married Roy Butler in 1960. He died in 1971. Both husbands buried at Palmer.

Muriel, born in 1909 at Palmer. Married to Melvin Shaver. One daughter. They live in Oregon.

Kenneth, born in 1911. Died in 1911. Buried at Palmer.

Mildred, born in 1913. Married Dr. E.A. Reils. He died in 1958. Buried at Omaha.

Dorothy, born in 1918. Married Harold Morris. Parents of three children. They live in California.

LeRoy Carley Shirey born in Exira, Iowa in 1920. Died in 1926. Buried at Palmer. He was a nephew of Joe Shirey. There are eighty-seven living descendants of Joe and Rosella Shirey.

Two daughters, Grace Prowett and Mildred Reils, reside in Merrick County at Central City.

Nancy Butler moved to St. Paul in 1980, after residing in Merrick County since 1970 in or near Palmer. *Submitted by Grace Prowett*

THOMAS A. SHIVELY

Thomas A. Shively was born in Tama, Iowa to Alaxender and Agnes Adams Shively on March 26, 1848. I received my schooling in Iowa, and helped my father with the farming. I came to Nebraska in Merrick County in 1872, and homesteaded eighty acres and made a dugout for my home. I returned to Iowa and brought my parents by train to Clarks, Nebraska. My mother passed away on the trip to Nebraska and was the second person buried in Pierce Chapel Cemetery. My father and I loaded our things on a wagon pulled by a team of oxen and led the cows to the dugout, our home. We hunted and traded with the Indians, gathered buffalo chips for heat, gathered wild fruit and canned them for our winter use. We rubbed two stones together to make our meal and flour. We did our farming by hand, cut the hay with a scythe and loaded it in a wagon and took to the dugout for feed. My father and I went to the rivers to get small trees and made us a couple groves of trees and several tree rows.

I decided to get married, so hitched the oxen to the wagon and picked up Indiana Violet Richard and went to Central City where we were married by a Judge. We did a little shopping and then headed for the dugout to make our home. We were blessed with seven children. We moved to Fullerton in the early 80's, and I delivered mail from Fullerton to Genoa by wagon and a team of oxen. When we crossed the rivers we went on a ferry. When the river froze we went across on ice. When they put the bridge up, they moved the ferry to Whitney Ranch. We moved back to the dugout, and my father and I plowed sod by teams of oxen and wooden plow for a sod house. There were several sod houses in 1882. I put a mill and pump down, which is still standing. In 1888, I bought another eighty and 174 acres from the railroad for $2.00 an acre. When walking machinery came on the market, I bought several and a team of horses. Our small grain was planted in cornfields and cut with a binder and threshed with steamer threshing machines. In 1897, I made a frame house which we moved into in 1900. In early days on Sunday, we attended Church and Sunday School at Pleasant Hill School. In 1913, Pierce Chapel was moved to its present location. We attended Church and Sunday School, and joined the Church there.

I went through the January 12, 1888, blizzard, depressions, floods, hail storms and inflation. In 1917, we celebrated our fortieth wedding anniversary and in 1921 I laid Indiana to rest.

When my youngest son got through school, he helped on the farm. He bought his first car, a Model T. Sedan in 1916. He batched for several years and then decided to get married. He brought his bride to live with us, and they are still living on the farm.

Thomas A. Shively was laid to rest in April, 1927. *Submitted by Thomas A. Shively*

THOMAS KLAR SHIVELY

Thomas A. Shively was born in Iowa on March 26, 1848. He came to Nebraska in 1872 and homesteaded eighty acres of land in Mead Township, Section twelve. Their first home was a dugout, then later he built a sod house. I was the youngest of seven children. I was born November 4, 1896. When I was four years old, the present house was built. I went to school at District #57 (Sandhill School). Some of my first teachers were Anna VanSickle, Ethel Owens, who later became my sister-in-law, Stella Vaughn, and Ethel Tunks. Stella Vaughn Barrett is still living and makes her home at Fullerton Manor. Some of my schoolmates were children of Lester Wages, Brigham Young Wood, Curry and Fish. Our County Superintendent was Fred Marsh. After I graduated from the eighth grade, I helped my father farm. He bought two more tracts of land from the railroad, one of eighty acres and another, 174 acres.

We attended church and Sunday school at School District #15, till they moved Pierce Chapel Church to its present location in 1913.

I purchased my first car, a Model T, in 1916.

My mother, Indiana Richards Shively, passed away in 1921. My father and I batched for several years. In 1926, on June 1st, I married Celia Goerl, a neighbor girl at Osceola, Nebraska. We made our home with my father until he passed away in 1927. We have two sons, Virgil of Clarks and Leslie of Walters, Oklahoma, three grandsons and one granddaughter. Our great granddaughter is the sixth generation to be on this land.

On June 1st, 1976 we celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary. I remitted from farming a few years ago, but still raise a few cattle and chickens and cut my own fire wood.

On September 26, 1980 we received the 100 year Aksarben award. *Submitted by Thomas Klar Shively*

JESSE SHOEMAKER

Jesse Shoemaker was born in 1825, Randolph County, Indiana, moved to Keokuk County, Iowa, and then to Merrick County, Nebraska, where he established a Trading Post and Blacksmith shop. Jesse married Henrietta Hurley and they had the following children: Eliza Jane married H.H. Mitchell, son of William Mitchell; Lucinda; Elisha; Alexander; Cornelius; John; Henrietta; and Amanda.

Jesse Shoemaker and his brother Jacob together donated the land for the Grand Island Cemetery. *Written by Patsy Shoemaker, notes from George Shoemaker (great nephew of Jesse Shoemaker)*

WILLIAM BRUNT SHOEMAKER

William Brunt Shoemaker, oldest of twelve children of Jacob Shoemaker and Sarah Ann Brunt; born August 11, 1850 in Lancaster, Iowa, was a pioneer resident of Merrick County, having immigrated to Nebraska in 1871.

William B. settled on a homestead four miles SW of Chapman. There Wm. B. and later his children lived for a total of 106 years. His sister Clara Kellogg also settled in Merrick County.

Wm. B.'s first homestead was a sod house, the second house was destroyed by fire and the third, still standing, was begun in 1896. It is a large, white structure, with a big screened in porch and a cellar. Being a progressive man, he had one of the first carriages in the community and one of the first pianos.

In 1877-78, Wm. B. and his brother Albert joined their uncle Sam W. Brunt, who was a deputy surveyor and helped him survey government lands in northern California for about a year.

Wm. B. married September 2, 1884, Mary Ann Neth, daughter of George and Salome Stoneburger Neth who came to Chapman in 1880. Wm. B. and Mary Ann had seven children, all born on the Shoemaker Homestead, receiving their early schooling at District #2.

(1) Evalyn (1886-1962) attended Fremont Normal College University of Chicago and taught in several Nebraska cities. Remaining single, she came home after her mother's death in 1929 to care for her father.

(2) Beatrice (1888-1970) after attending Fremont Normal College and teaching, married in 1909 to Franklin John Ritter, son of John Louis Ritter and Maryetta Skinner. Beatrice and Frank lived in Nebraska. Frank was a depot agent for the Union Pacific. After retirement, the couple moved to Fort Collins, Colorado. They had six children: Raymond, Franklin, Maryetta Holmstedt, John, Alice Hardwick and Albert Eugene Ritter.

(3) Ines (1890-1970) attended Fremont Normal College and taught in Merrick and Hall counties, married in 1920 to Charles D. Willoughby, son of Levi Willoughby and Lottie Shielstrom. They had three children: Evelyn Maxine Davis, Charles (Bud), and Dean Willoughby, and lived near Mason City.

(4) William Neth Shoemaker (1892-1978) graduated from Fremont Normal College in 1911; and was in World War I. After the war, he returned to the Shoemaker farm at Chapman where he farmed and lived the rest of his life, unmarried.

(5) Mary Mae (May 1, 1896-May 5, 1896); buried in Grand Island Cemetery with mother, father, and all deceased brothers and sisters, except Ines.

(6) George Jacob, (b. 1900) farmed in Merrick county before marrying Frances Christina Schneider, daughter of John Schneider and Theresa Vogel, in 1928. They moved to Idaho in 1948. Six children all born at Grand Island: George, Theresa Biggers, Frances Arlene, Dolores McIntyre Harrison, William B., and Larry Shoemaker. After the death of his wife Frances in 1968, George married Victoria Besch. George is still living a very active life in Nampa, Idaho.

(7) Sarah (1902-1978) attended Peru Teacher's College, taught in Merrick county and in Pine Bluff, Wyoming. Sarah married Merle Martin, son of John Henry Ulysses Martin and Arrah Zelda Gould, in 1935 at Pocatello, Idaho. Upon Merle's death in 1954, Sarah joined her sister Evalyn and brother William N. on the Shoemaker farm near Chapman and lived the rest of her life there. *Written by Patsy Shoemaker from notes from George Shoemaker*

WILLIAM SHOEMAKER FAMILY

On September 1, 1971, a Nebraska Pioneer Farm Award, co-sponsored by AK-SAR-BEN and the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers, was presented to William Neth Shoemaker and his sister, Sarah Shoemaker Martin, children of Merrick County pioneers, William Brunt and Mary Ann Neth Shoemaker. Recognizing ownership of their 320 acre farm which had remained in the Shoemaker family for over 100 years, the handsomely engraved plaque and a framed certificate are cherished by the family.

William Brunt Shoemaker, a young man of twenty-one, with his father and mother, Jacob and Sarah Shoemaker, five brothers, and six sisters, came to Nebraska from Iowa in 1871. The family located on a farm west of Grand Island. William homesteaded nine miles east of Grand Island, acquired a timber claim, and purchased more land. This farm, located on Wood River southwest of Chapman, was the site of "Shoemaker's Point", a trading post, and the first Merrick County Post Office. Artifacts from the Shoemaker Point blacksmith shop were made available to the Merrick County Historical Society, and some items can be seen at the Stuhr Museum. The Mormon Trail passed through the farmyard south of the present house.

"Bea" Shoemaker, as he was known to friends, built a sod house. He walked to Iowa several winters to work so that he could earn money to buy a team of horses and livestock to take to Nebraska. On his way home, he sold churns.

William Brunt Shoemaker and Mary Ann Neth, daughter of George and Salome Stoneburger Neth, were married in 1886 at Central City, Nebraska. Pictured are their fine family: Beatrice Clara (Ritter); George J. Shoemaker; Ines Marie (Willoughby); Evalyn S. Shoemaker; Father William; Sarah S. (Martin); Mother Mary Ann; and William Neth Shoemaker. The children were high school and college graduates. The four girls were reputed to be the prettiest and the best teachers in all of Merrick County! (I know this is true, because Beatrice is my mother.) Uncle Bill served in France during World War I. He was a Shriner and devout benefactor to the Crippled Children's Hospital.

As a progressive farmer and livestock producer, Grandfather raised horses for the army and bred draft horses used for field work. He planted black



William B. Shoemaker Family

walnut trees brought from Iowa. He owned the first automobile in Merrick County, and the family enjoyed a piano in the parlor. One wintry night when my mother was a young girl, their house burned to the ground. The four children and a drawer of important papers were saved. The present home was built in 1896.

Grandmother, sixty-two, died in 1929. Grandfather, eighty-nine, passed away in 1940 at his farm home. They are buried in the Grand Island Cemetery, the land having been donated to tbe City of Grand Island by Great Grandfather Jacob Shoemaker.

When Sarah Shoemaker Martin and William Neth Shoemaker died in the 1970's, the family tradition continued, as part of the pioneer farm was purchased by a great-granddaughter, Mary Ann Eberspacher. George Shoemaker, the remaining member of the William Brunt Shoemaker immediate family, lives in Nampa, Idaho. We grandchildren have many happy memories of childhood days spent on Grandfather Shoemaker's historical farm.
Submitted by Alice Beatrice Ritter Hardwick

MICHAEL SHONSEY FAMILY

My father, Michael (Mike) Shonsey, was born in Montreal, Canada, in 1866, one of six children born to Margaret McCarty and Thomas Shonsey. When he was very young, the family moved to Marion County, Ohio. Their father was killed in a lumber camp accident. This necessitated the four boys working to support the family. It was at this time, when he was thirteen years old, that he went to Wyoming with Mr. T.B. Hord. He worked as a horse wrangler until he saved enough money to return to Oberlin College in Ohio, where he studied business. He returned to Wyoming, where he again worked for Mr. Hord.

In 1891 he married my mother, Olive Belle Sisler, in O'Neill, Nebraska. She was born in 1866 in West Virginia, and was a direct descendant of Archibald DeBerry. He and his three brothers had come from France to settle in Virginia. They were Huguenots and their estate had been confiscated by the government. When very young, my mother, whose parents were William Harrison Sisler and Mary Jane DeBerry, came to Minnesota.

In 1893, my parents moved to Central City where they lived on the Hord Home Ranch. My father was the manager. My brothers, Harold and Mike Jr., were born at this time. In 1897, my father was transferred to the Hord and Shonsey ranch at Clarks. My brother Tom and I were born there.

Since our business was feeding cattle, there was lots of activity. I can still see lots of men wearing yellow slickers riding horseback in the rain. In the winter, the ground in the feed lots was covered with white snow geese. Many times hunters would come to hunt ducks and geese, and stay at our home.

Summer was haying time. I had a pony, and it was my job to carry jugs of water to the men working in the hay field. When there was much hay to be put up, a long distance from the ranch, a tent would be erected so that the men could have hot meals. I can still see the big crocks of lemonade. I am sure that with their ingenuity, they had ice for it.

I would be remiss if I did not mention two very faithful people who were at the ranch in those early days: Sam, who was Chinese and did the cooking, and Andy, who had been a slave in the south. It would be impossible to measure their loyalty and devotion.

We four children went to school in Clarks from the first grade on. Our class of 1918 was the last class to graduate from the old school. One of my memories is the school's annual violet picking day. We went to the railroad because that was where the violets grew the thickest. In 1918 the entire school planted a victory garden. Everyone was anxious to work for the war effort.

My brother, Tom, who had enlisted in the Army and was in the 1st Division, 26th Infantry, Co. M., was killed on July 22, 1918 at Chateau Thierry, France.

My brother, Harold, married Ethel Grimes of Clarks; Mike Jr. married Hazel Campbell of Clarks; and I married Schuyler Masters, also of Clarks.

My husband and I think of Clarks as our home. We like that part of the country — the level land, the railroad with its trains, the Platte River, and the good feeling we have for the people living there.
Submitted by Margaret Shonsey Masters

EMMETT L. SHOUP FAMILY

Emmett and I were both born in Nebraska. Emmett moved with his parents, V.C. and Hannah Shoup, to Central City in 1938, having graduated from Barneston High School. He was second oldest in a family of six children.

My father, E.A. Carlson, was a farmer and rancher and had more land than he could manage, so needed hired help and Emmett happened to be one of the fellows helping. Only he became more than a "hiredman". I had only one brother, Roger, who was younger than I.



Emmett L. Shoup Family — **Back l to r** — Rogene Shoup, Emmett Shoup, Richard Blase, Rich Parsons, Kim Shoup. **Front** — Karla Blase, Rhea Parsons.

Emmett went off to World War II, and I continued my education, graduating from University of Nebraska with a B.S. in Home Economics. I continued on as Assistant Manager of Ag. College Cafeteria on the campus until my marriage to Emmett on June 1, 1947, in Central City where we lived, as he was employed at "Egg" Haddix' Shop as a welder.

After a year of living in Central City, we got the opportunity to return to the farm. Having both been raised on a farm, our interest in tilling the soil and making it productive was a part of us. Our farm was known as "the old Jake Whitmore" or "McCullough Place" in the beautiful Platte River Valley known as Prairie Island. There, nature was abundant, and the opportunity to live and raise our family attracted us, as well as being close to both our homes.

Emmett, as well as being a farmer, became a



Thomas B. (in cart), Margaret, Olive Belle and Mike Shonsey, Sr.

rancher and also helped my dad, E.A. Carlson, who had a farm museum with an accumulation of some 40,000 items. These helped make antique lovers and collectors out of us.

After being married five years, we decided it was time to start our family. Our oldest daughter, Karla Rae, married a mortician, Richard Blase. They have a daughter, Jill Noel, with another expected soon. Our second girl, Rhea Jo, married a carpenter, Rich Parsons, and they are expecting their first child. Last but not least, we have a son, Kim Alan, who lives on my home place and is gradually taking over the farm, as we are having thoughts toward those days of retiring from the farm.

Life has been good to us. We were all active in the Presbyterian Church in Central City, where Emmett and I both served on the Session. Our children went to Hordville to school, and we receive our mail from Clarks, which only helps to confuse those who don't know how to reach us.

Emmett enjoys his lodge, and is presently president of the Shrine Motor Patrol, which leaves us with fond memories of our association with so many fine people.

We enjoy many family and friend gatherings at our cabin in the pasture, and have made it possible for some thirty-five families, more or less, to have a cabin or summer-home in our beautiful Platte River Valley to enjoy a peaceful retreat and nature.

Our farm life is what we enjoy, and we plan to retire here and watch our family grow, and enjoy our heritage. *Submitted by Rogene Carlson Shoup*

DONALD & WILMA SHULL

Donald Shull and Wilma Sadler were married November 22, 1941, in Omaha, Nebraska. Donald was the son of Ray Elmer Shull and Ina (Anderson) Shull of Archer, Nebraska. Donald was born in Archer on July 21, 1920, and attended school there, graduating in 1937. Donald had an older brother, Raymond, and three younger brothers, Thomas, Gerald and Kenneth.

Wilma Sadler was the daughter of Samuel Sadler and Fay Cassell (see separate sketch). The first two years of Donald and Wilma's marriage were on a farm two and one fourth miles south of Archer. Their daughter, Sami Rae, was born August 20, 1942. In January of 1943, they moved to farm the "Ed Blevins" Home-place one mile east and one fourth mile south of Chapman on Highway 30. Their daughter Kathleen Fay was born May 12, 1943. Susan Ellen was born February 29, 1948 and James Donald, November 27, 1951.

Their children attended Chapman Public School. In 1958, the Shulls had a farm sale and moved into an apartment in Chapman. They purchased the "Ace Cafe" from Francis and Mildred Dingwerth and operated it for three years. In 1964, Donald began working for "Holiday Inns" in either the capacity of Innkeeper or restaurant manager in Grand Island, Burlington, Iowa, Norfolk, Nebraska and Hastings, Nebraska. He is Innkeeper of the Holiday Inn of Hastings at the present time. They have recently moved to #5 St. James, 2225 Rue de College in Grand Island.

Sami Dietrich and son, Michael Dietrich, live in Dyersberg, Tennessee. Since her 1960 graduation from Grand Island Senior High School and the "Nebraska Business Institute" in Lincoln, Nebraska Sami worked as a medical secretary in hospitals in Lincoln, El Paso, Texas, and Memphis, Tennessee. Before moving to Dyersberg, where she is presently the director of the Chamber of Commerce of Dyersberg, she worked for the Chamber of Commerce offices in Jackson and Hendersonville, Tennessee.



Don Shull Family — 1971

Kathleen (Kathy) Downs, wife of Roland Downs, lives in Norfolk, as well as her three children, Terry, Sherry and Chris McShannon. Kathy works for the Holiday Inn Restaurant. Roland is an insurance agent and manager. He has two sons, Terry and Randy Downs.

Susan Ellen (Susie) Anderson, and her daughter, Cindy Anderson, live in Grand Island, where Susie works for Century 21 and Dreisbachs.

James Donald, (Jim) was a 1970 graduate from senior high in Norfolk, and has since been a student at the University of Nebraska (Lincoln) and, since 1977, in the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin. He was selected, on the basis of his research accomplishments, to receive the Steenbock Predoctoral Fellowship administered by the Department of Biochemistry of the University of Wisconsin-Madison for 1980-81. He was also granted a position with Dr. Van Potter, a Nobel award winner, in the McArdle Laboratory of Cancer Research. Jim is unmarried.

I.I. SHULL FAMILY

Irvin Izah Shull and Lillie May Clifton were married in "Lone Tree", now Central City, on August 28, 1888. Irvin Shull was born in Charlotte, Iowa, on March 31, 1862. Lillie May Clifton was born April 1, 1867, near Peoria, Illinois. The Cliftons came from Scotland to settle in Illinois, moving to Nebraska in 1871. They settled along the Blue River in Saunders County, later moving south of Clarks on the bank of the old Platte River where they took a claim. They were among the earliest families to settle along the Platte River. Three daughters and a son were born. A fourth daughter died in childhood. They started out in a small soddie, with covered wagon and breaking plow. Lillie's father died of a heart attack when she was fourteen, and was laid to rest in the Linburg Cemetery. Many members of the Shull and Clifton families rest there. Irvin Shull came to Nebraska in the late seventies, with his parents — Richard R. and Sarah Albright Shull. The grandparents, Louis and Nancy Shull, had come years before to settle. The Shull family lived in and near Merrick County until the spring of 1906, when the family moved to a large ranch near Nance County. There were six children: Roy, crippled from German measles; Wretta, who married George Kelly and after his death, Dana Hurd; Ray, who married Ina Anderson; Iona, married to Loren Brannan; Clarence, who married Ethel Trullinger; Gladys, who married Vernal Clark; and, baby Jimmy, who died at birth. In 1919, the family moved back to the Clifton homestead.

In 1942, the Shulls moved into Clarks, where they spent the rest of their nearly 66 years together. She died February 12, 1954, and, he, June 8, 1956. *Submitted by Mrs. Francis Brannan*

DEAN & BARBARA SIDDERS

Barbara Jean Watkins was born October 17, 1932 to Robert Lawrance and Nita Bernice Rawlings Watkins at the home of Grace and Raymond Gibson on the College Section near Central City, Nebraska. She started her schooling in the Archer School, then moved near Central City and attended District #8 school and graduated from the Central City High School in 1951. After graduating she worked in Jim's G.W. Foods and married Dean Arden Sidders February 10, 1952 in the Friends Church in Central City in a double wedding ceremony with her twin sister Betty Jane and Dale Eugene King.

Barbara is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and American Legion Auxiliary Lone Tree Unit #6 and is Merrick County President of the American Legion Association.

Dean was born November 16, 1930 to Vernon William and Iva Waggoner Sidders. He attended rural school and Central City High School. He farmed and did commercial trucking. Dean was



Dean Sidders Family — 1971

drafted into the U.S. Marines March 20, 1952 and stationed in San Diego, California. He was released March 19, 1954. Dean is a member of the American Legion Post #6 and a past Commander. They celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary in 1977.

Dean and Barbara have four children, DeJuan Curtis born October 10, 1953 in the Balboa Navy Hospital in San Diego, California. He graduated from the Central City High School and the Hastings Tech School. He farms during the spring and summer months and works as a Tool and Die Machinist during the winter months. While in high school he sang with the chorus and Noninus Expers. He also wrestled and took a big part in church activities.

Iva Jean was born May 4, 1955 and is a graduate from the Central City High School and the Grand Island Beauty Scbool. She is employed at the LaFayette Beauty Salon. She married Philip Russell Bolling August 30, 1974. He was born April 15, 1956 to Philip and Bernadine Hack Bolling. He graduated from the Central City High School in 1974. He is employed by the City and does butchering for a locker plant. They have one son, Philip Dean, born November 11, 1976.

Lorene Kay was born December 19, 1956. She is a graduate from the Central City High School and the Kearney State Teachers College and is employed at the U.S. Post Office in Kearney. She married Kevin Donald Hollister August 12, 1978. Kevin was born May 27, 1957 to Donald and Carol Ensphar Hollister. He is manager of Midwest Audio.

Deana Marie was born May 27, 1957 and graduated from the Central City High School and the Grand Island School of Business. She is employed at Alexander-Grant and Computor. She took part in band and voice while in high school and was majorette three years. She married Gary Lee Veik February 1978. Gary was born May 12, 1958 to Alvin and Patricia Preusser Veik. He is employed with the telephone company. They have one daughter, Brenda Rae born March 14, 1980. *Submitted by Mrs. Nita Watkins*

JOHN & LOUISE SIEMERS

My father, John Siemers, was born in Hanover, Germany, May 24, 1881. He and his brother, Herman, came to the United States when John was fourteen and Herman was twenty-four.

They went to Plattsville, Wisconsin, and worked in a lumber mill for their uncle a few years. There are two streets in Plattsville named Herman Street and Siemers Street. Later, they moved to Chapman, Nebraska and worked on a farm for Fred Garbers. On October 6, 1901, John married Louise Muller. Louise's father, Ludwig Muller, was born in Slachwag, Germany. He migrated to the United States at the age of nineteen and lived in Bluegrass, Iowa. Later he homesteaded west of Chapman, Nebraska.

John and Louise bought their farm from the Worlands. It was south of Chapman on the road to the Platte River. They worked hard to make a living, like all people did in those days.

They had five children: Louie, Harry, Ann, Hulda, and Don. My parents felt that education was very important. In the winter we rode our horse and

buggy to school, putting up our horses in the livery stable with other children like the Woodmans and Forquiers. In the spring and fall when the weather was nice, we walked to school. Louie went to the business college in Grand Island following the eighth grade and Ann, Don, and Hulda graduated from Chapman High School.

Our farm life was a very happy one as we enjoyed the out-of-doors. We played baseball and basketball with the Bove kids, and spent many happy hours swimming in the Platte River, having picnics, etc. We also enjoyed trips to Grand Island in our dad's car — even though the roads were rough and full of chuck holes. The nails and holes gave us a lot of flat tires.

Our conveniences were meager, but our dad did get a pump in the house — which was a luxury in those days. He provided for us by farming and running a threshing machine. There was always plenty of food on the table — which our mother prepared for us.

When Louie and Harry were around fourteen, our dad rented the John Donavon farmland to give the boys a place to work. We lived at the Donavon farm for ten years. Later, our folks moved back to the small farm.

Louie married Ann Rauert from Grand Island. Harry went to Illinois and married Frieda Minor. Ann graduated from high school and went to Chicago. Hulda married Ralph Blevins and lived in Chapman until his death. Later, she married Stan Pennington and now lives in Ainsworth, Nebraska. Don married Leona Baasch of Grand Island, and they moved to Illinois.

Our father passed away in February, 1943, and Louise, our mother, died on December 5, 1944. Louie and Harry have also passed away.

Herman Siemers, our uncle, lived his lifetime in Chapman and Grand Island, Nebraska. He married Tena Muehl and they had three children: George, Mamie, and Alma.



John and Louise Siemers

As we look back on our pioneer life, it was indeed a happy life we lived in Merrick County. *Submitted by Hulda Siemers Pennington*

SIMONSON SIX GENERATIONS

ONON SIMONSON

My great-great grandfather Onon was born in Norway in 1848. He came to America at the age of eighteen and settled in Menard County, Illinois, close to Springfield. That is where he married Miss Berte Egeland in 1870.

Onon came to Merrick County in March, 1873 taking up a homestead in Section twenty, Township thirteen, Range eight. He was joined by his wife and son, Simon, in May of the same year. Another child, Anna, was born to Onon and Berte.

Berte lived on the farm for only eleven years before her death in 1884. Onon worked hard building up a good farm until his death on April 29, 1902.



Anna, Onon and Simon Simonson

SIMON H. SIMONSON

The second generation of Simonsons to live in Merrick County was my great grandfather Simon. He came to Merrick County with his parents in the spring of 1873. He assisted his father with the farm work through years of many hardships.

At the age of twenty-two he married Miss Selma Wagner on the twenty-sixth of September, 1895. Selma's parents, Traugott and Pauline (Schuessler) Wagner came to Merrick County in 1879.

Simon and Selma had five children born to them: Berte, who married Albert Dammann and died in 1918, Ella married Oscar Frederking and died in 1976, Oscar died in 1965, Onon, my grandfather, and Norman who married Sadie Richardson and died in 1978.

Besides being a farmer and an auctioneer, Simon also served as a county supervisor and a member of the school board of District #42. He lived on the old home place and added to it until it contained over five hundred acres, part of which I farm today. He also built a fine new home before he contracted pneumonia and died in 1916. Selma spent her last years in Grand Island and died in 1939.

ONON ROBERT SIMONSON

The third generation of my family is my grandfather, Onon, known to many as O.R. My grandfather died last year in August, but his memory will live on in my heart forever. I guess he would have been the ideal grandfather in any child's eye. He always had time for me, whether it was working in his garden to raise produce for the fair, or helping out with a 4-H lamb.

O.R. was born on his parents' farm, May 15, 1904, where he lived until his father's death. After which he and the rest of his family moved to Grand Island where he finished school and worked at various jobs.

As a young man, Grandpa always said he had eyes for only one young lady, and in 1925 he made her his wife. Frieda Theresa Margaretha Wagner, daughter of Max and Sophia (Meyer) Wagner, became O.R.'s wife on September 16, 1925. He always said she was a difficult gal to court because all she wanted to do was sit and crochet. Well, Grandma still likes to do that. There's probably not a child, grandchild, great-grandchild, or friend of hers that doesn't have some hand crocheted article from her.

After their marriage they settled down to farming one hundred and sixty acres in sections nineteen, twenty-nine, and thirty of Prairie Creek Township, and raising a family. Robert was born January 20, 1928, but died at eight weeks of pneumonia. My father, Dean, was born on March 25, 1929, Slyvia, the only daughter, was born on May 25, 1933. She married D.H. James on October 6, 1956. They live in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, where they have raised three children: Patricia, Daniel, and Johnathan. The youngest of the family, Duane was born January 2, 1942. After graduating from Seward Concordia Teacher's College, Duane taught school for ten years, then went to the Seminary in Springfield, Illinois. Now he is a pastor in Douglas, Wyoming. Duane and his wife Nelda (Pitsch) were married August 30, 1964, and have five children: Tasha, Stacey, Curtis, Joshua, and Gretchen.

Grandpa spent many years working as a 4-H club leader. He also served over thirty years on the Merrick County Fair board. I imagine there are quite a few people in the county that miss my grandparents' presence in the Agricultural Building at the fair. Another favorite past time of his was fishing, he could sit for hours just enjoying the outdoors and all of God's creation.

My grandparents have belonged to the Zion Lutheran Church in Worms their entire lives. Grandpa was confirmed in 1918 and Grandma in 1920. Grandpa held many church offices but I remember him as the man who always rang the bell in the old church. Grandma was an active member of the Ladies' Aid for many years.

On August 4, 1980, Grandpa was taken from us. He had fought a long battle with cancer, but he never let it get him down. His courage and faith were strong until the end.

ORVILLE DEAN SIMONSON

Orville Dean Simonson, known to everyone as Dean, was my father. He was born on March 25, 1929, and died on December 10, 1967, at the age of thirty-eight.

Like most young farm boys, Dad grew up helping his dad with the farming. He received his education at Zion Lutheran School in Worms, where he was also confirmed in 1943.

Dad married Maxine Frauen, daughter of Max and Elsie (Ostermeier) Frauen, on June 15, 1947. They had five children, all of whom still live in Merrick County. Ronald Dean born December 4, 1948. Kathleen Sue, May 24, 1952, who is married to Douglas Wegner. (They live and farm east of Palmer). Rochelle Rae, June 25, 1957, is married to James Nicholas. They have one daughter, Lindsay, and farm south of Palmer. Randall Robert, April 14, 1960, is living at home and working. Bryan Jay, October 29, 1964 is in high school at Palmer.

Dad spent fourteen years farming east of Worms, but in 1960 he bought the grocery store and butcher shop in Worms, which also served as our home. In 1966, Dad also purchased the grocery store in Palmer. We then started building a new home there. But on December 10, 1967, while hunting, my father was killed in a freak accident.

My mother went ahead with the house, but the stores were sold. We put our lives back together and continued on. In 1973, Mom married Bernard O'Hern. They have a son, Michael.



Orville Dean Simonson Family — 1967

RONALD DEAN SIMONSON

I carry on the fifth generation of my family to live in Merrick County, and my son Nicholas is the sixth.

I was born on December 4, 1948 to Dean and Maxine (Frauen) at the Lutheran Hospital in Grand Island. I was baptized on Christmas Day at the Zion Lutheran Church in Worms. Where I was also confirmed in 1963, and am still a member.

My early schooling was received at Zion Lutheran School in Worms. I attended high school in Palmer where I graduated in 1967. I spent a year at both the Grand Island School of Business and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

On December 29, 1972, I married Vicki Nicholas. We lived a year in Howard County, then moved a trailer on to my grandparents', O.R. Simonson's, place. I have been farming their land since then and raising hogs and cattle.



Ron, Nicholas and Onon R. Simonson

Vicki and I had a son, Nicholas Dean, on December 1, 1978. He was also baptized on Christmas Day in the same church in Worms. Needless to say, we have spent the last two and a half years watching our son grow, and enjoying every minute of it. *Submitted by Ron Simonson*

JOHN & NORMA SIMONSON

John Simonson was born on November 20, 1929 to Onen and Hedwig Wagner Simonson two miles north of Worms. He attended school at Worms. On August 21, 1949 he married Norma Shipman at Worms. Norma was born on November 1, 1931 on a farm two miles south of St. Libory to Albert and Milda Dickman Shipman. When a small girl the Shipman family moved to a farm one mile north east of Worms. She attended school District #42 North till 1939 when she moved with her family to Ann Arbor, Michigan. In 1942 they returned to Merrick County to a farm a half mile north and two and one half miles east of Worms. Norma then attended school at Worms.

John served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict from 1952 till 1954.



John and Norma Simonson

John and Norma are the parents of five children. Sandra was born on March 15, 1955. She attended school at Worms and graduated from Palmer High School in 1973. On July 27, 1973 Sandra married Robert Davis of Palmer, at Zion Lutheran Church at Worms. They are the parents of two children, Tony, born January 6, 1974 and is now in the first grade at the Worms School. Daughter Kelly was born on Christmas Eve, 1979. They lived in Grand Island till July, 1979 when they bought and moved a house a half mile north of her parents home. Both Bob and Sandy work in Grand Island. Bob at Monfort and Sandy at U.P.S.

Sally was born on August 15, 1957. She attended school at Worms and graduated from Palmer High School in 1976. She then attended college at Hastings and is now working at Bethphage Mission at Axtell, Nebraska. Sandy and Sally were both born at the old Lutheran Hospital in Grand Island which stood at the corner of First and Locust Streets.

Jerry was born at St. Paul, Nebraska on October 13, 1967. He is now in the seventh grade at Worms.

Twin girls, Stacie and Stephanie were born at St. Paul on October 6, 1971. They are in the third grade at Worms.

John has lived on the place where he was born his entire life except for the time he served in the Marine Corps. The last sixteen years John has been working for the A.S.C.S. in Central City. *Submitted by John Simonson*

ONEN & HATTIE SIMONSON

Onen Simonson, son of Simon and Anna Jenson Simonson was born April 16, 1895 at the family farm northwest of Worms. He attended District #45 school. The Simonsons were active members of the Norwegian Lutheran church west of Worms.

Hedwig (Hattie) Rose Wagner was born June 19, 1895 to Paul and Antonia Buchfinck Wagner. Hattie grew up on the family farm one half mile south and one mile west of Worms, where her nephew, Andy Glause and family now live. Hattie attended Zion Lutheran School and Zion Lutheran Church at Worms.

In 1916 Onen had the opportunity to buy the farm adjoining his parents' farm. This is where Onen took his bride, Hattie, after their May 7th wedding at Zion Lutheran Church at Worms. It was here that their six children were born and raised.

Esther, born in 1917, was married to Charles Van Pelt in 1936. They lived in the Archer and Palmer communities for several years before moving to Hordville where they now reside. They have eight children, Jay, Dan, Mary Jane Fesser, Nancy Brown, Carol Corbett, Bonnie, Connie, and Doris Cerny.

Rose was born in 1920. In 1941 she married Harry Thede. They live northeast of Worms. Their children are Bob, Betty Bates, Susan Kizer, and Larry.

May was born in 1924. In 1945 she married Robert Mettenbrink. They live north of Grand Island. Their children are Jim, Rose Mary Ringlein, Bob, David, Tom, and Steven.

Alice was born in 1928 and in 1945 she was married to Harvey Langrehr. They live east of St. Libory. Their children are Harvey, Maxine Halsey, Barbara Renter, and Bill.

John, born in 1929 was married to Norma Jean Shipman in 1949. They live on the home place where John farms and also works for the A.S.C. Their children are Sandra Davis, Sally, Jerry, Stacie, and Stephanie.

Alma was born in 1932 and in 1951 was married to Eugene Bredthauer. They live at Ord. Their children are Glen, Rick, Vicky Hruby, and Andy.

The Simonsons have been active members of Zion Lutheran Church at Worms. The children and many of the grandchildren attended Zion Lutheran school. Onen worked for the Merrick County A.S.C. for many years, retiring in 1960. He also farmed and did some carpentry work. Hattie's main concern was always for her children and grandchildren. Hattie passed away on June 26, 1960. She is buried in the Norwegian Church cemetery west of Worms.

On April 16, 1961, Onen married Ida Quandt Buchfinck. They continued to live on the farm where Ida's children, Alice Riley, (Born 1921, Died 1974)



Onen Simonson Family — 1952

and Velma Dever, and their families enjoyed spending their vacation time away from the city. Ida passed away August 24, 1980.

A lover of music and at one time a member of the Worms band, Onen still likes to sing and especially enjoys playing the harmonica. He also enjoys gardening. Onen has thirty-one grandchildren including four sets of twins, and forty-one great grandchildren. He never ceases thanking God for the many blessings he has received throughout his life. *Submitted by Alma Simonson Bredthauer*

SIMON AND ANNA SIMONSON

Simon Simonson was born June 4, 1851, in Konsmo, Norway, one of a set of twin boys. At the age of eighteen he came to America. He worked on a farm near Grenview, Illinois, until February, 1876 when he returned to Norway.

Anna Jensen was born October 3, 1858, at Mandal, Norway. Simon and Anna were married at Mandal in 1879. They and their infant son came to America, arriving in Grand Island on July 28, 1880. They lived one mile east of Worms until, on October 18, 1881 they took up a homestead two and one half miles northwest of Worms in Section six of Prairie Creek Township. The Simonson's helped organize and were charter members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church which was located one half mile north and one mile west of Worms in Howard County.

Simon and Anna were the parents of thirteen children including two sets of twins. Three of their children died in infancy.

Simon was born in Norway May 22, 1880. In 1913 he married Anna Torstenson. They lived across the road from his parents. Simon took much pride in his Norwegian heritage and corresponded with relatives in Norway throughout his life. Anna died in 1942 and Simon in September 1960. They had no children.

John was born March 4, 1882. He worked in the copper mine for Kennicot Copper Co. Company at Bingham Canyon, Utah. John never married. He died in 1954.

Anna was born February 17, 1884, and died September 6, 1901.

Lafe and Dorothea, twins, were born October 1, 1886.

Lafe married Milda Dammann in 1907. They had one daughter, Myrtle. Lafe was postmaster in Palmer from 1934 to 1956. Lafe died in March 1958. Milda died in 1978. Myrtle, who was married to Frank Keefe of London died in 1959.

Dorothea married Edward Seim in 1911. They lived southeast of Worms. They had four sons: Leonard, who died in infancy; Reynold; Alvin, who died in 1969; and LeRoy. Ed died in 1959 and Dorothea died in May 1972.

Emma was born April 11, 1890, and died April 25, 1892.

Andrew was born September 4, 1892. He married Pauline Helzer in 1917. They farmed in Howard County. They had one daughter, Ruth, Mrs. Carl Bader now of Caldwell, Idaho. Pauline died June 22,

1961. In 1962 Andrew married Luella Dreman, Lautenschlager, Bender. Andrew died in 1971. Luella died in 1978.

Onen was born April 16, 1895. He married Hedwig (Hattie) Wagner in 1916. They lived two miles north of Worms. Their children are Esther, Rose, May, Alice, John, and Alma. Hattie died June 26, 1960. In 1961 Onen married Ida Quandt Buchfinck. Ida died August 24, 1980. Onen still resides on the farm.

Thorval was born October 9, 1897. In 1922 he married Anna Luebke. They lived one and one half miles north of Worms. They had three children, Oliver, Allen, and Rhoda Ann, Mrs. Gene Hill of Colorado. Anna died June 23, 1962. In 1965 Thorval married Sophia Aschwege Ueckert. Sophia died in 1977. Thorval resides at Coolidge Center at Palmer.

Emma was born January 23, 1900. This was the second Emma in the family, the first Emma having died at the age of two. In 1924 Emma married August Helzer. They lived one and one half miles north of Worms where the Don Wichmann family now lives. In 1938 they moved to Caldwell Idaho. They had eight children, Broyce, Grace, Leon, Albert, Elmer, Gladys, Gerald and Gary. August died in 1968. Emma lives in Caldwell.

Simon and Anna remained on the same farm all their lives except for a short time when they lived in Palmer. Simon was very discontent in Palmer so they moved back to the farm. The Clarence Wichmanns now live there.



Simon and Anna Simonson — 1890

Anna died January 23, 1931, and Simon died December 7, 1934. They along with several other members of the Simonson family are buried in the cemetery where the Norwegian Church was located. *Submitted by Alma Simonson Bredthauer*

C. KEYS SINSEL FAMILY

Jessie Maude Frazer, daughter of Lutellus L. and Eliza Jane Frazer, was born December 13, 1871, at Connelsville, Pennsylvania. She came with her family to Merrick County as a small child. After living in Lone Tree Township for a short time, they moved to a homestead near Archer. She attended Nebraska Central College and taught school one term. Cleon Keys, son of James and Sarah Sinsel, was born at Pruntytown, West Virginia, June 14, 1858, the youngest of fourteen children. He came to Merrick County as a young man, and lived for a time with his brothers, James and William Sinsel. Jessie Maude Frazer and Cleon Keys Sinsel were married at the home of her parents on January 7, 1892. They became parents of fourteen children, all of whom were born in Merrick County. Their first child, Carl Arthur died in infancy.

The others are: Harry Everett, born December 20, 1893, died June 10, 1957 at Archer; Ralph Cleon, born April 10, 1896, living at McMinville, Oregon; John Lutellus (Louie) born November 27, 1897, died June 28, 1954 at McMinville, Oregon; Grace Helen (Wiser) born February 2, 1900, died February 15, 1972 at McMinville, Oregon; Laurence Keys born November 12, 1901, died November 12, 1946 at Central City, Nebraska; Dorothy Maude (Rains) born December 23, 1903, living at Chapman, Nebraska; Marjorie Jean (Foulk) born January 14, 1906, died August 25, 1979 at Archer, Nebraska; Elizabeth Ethel (Moschenross) born January 24, 1909, died February 5, 1981 at Denver, Colorado; Sarah Eliza, born December 30, 1910, died March 2, 1929 at Central City, Nebraska; Edith Rose (Enfield) born March 21, 1913, living at Seattle, Washington; Norman Hugh, born April 5, 1914, living at McMinville, Oregon; Mary Margaret (Ruben) born June 14, 1915, died August 18, 1963 at Grand Island, Nebraska; Martha Mae Erbentraut, born June 14, 1915, living at Santa Ana, California.

The Sinsels were farmers and moved frequently. Life was not always easy. With such a large family, and only the renter's share of the crops, it took lots of management and hard work to provide the necessities. They were sustained by a strong religious faith. All were members of the Prairie Creek Baptist Church. Jessie's appreciation of beautiful things never diminished. She could make a beautiful floral arrangement from a few stems of garden flowers, and fashion a smart-looking coat or dress from a worn garment. She often sewed at night, while C. Keys would sometimes resole worn out shoes while the children slept. The family sang together, with Jessie at the piano and her rich alto voice leading the vocals. C. Keys died on December 22, 1928. Jessie lived in Central City for several years, and later in the homes of her children. She died on February 24, 1955. They are both buried in the Prairie Creek Cemetery. They left little of this world's goods, but a heritage of wonderful memories. *by Dorothy Sinsel Rains*

WILLIAM F. SINSEL

William F. Sinsel came to Merrick County from Pruntytown, West Virginia, in April, 1865, leaving his bride of one year to join him later. He had learned of available opportunities from his brother, Jim, who had preceded him to Nebraska and settled near Archer. He staked a forty acre timber-claim two miles south of Archer, built a sod house near the west side of an adjoining forty, which was railroad land, and sent for his wife to join him. She came by train to Lone Tree, which is now Central City. Uncle Will and Aunt Fannie raised four sons: Charles, who taught school for a time but eventually bought a wholesale fruit shipping business in Boise, Idaho; Guy, who became manager of a hotel in Clarksburg, West Virginia; Thayer, who later settled in Boise; and Carl, who farmed with and for his parents. Uncle Will was a successful farmer, and through the years, increased his holdings to 320 acres.

The Sinsels soon outgrew the soddy and built a story and a half, four bedroom house, complete with front veranda, enclosed back porch and attached milk house. There, in troughs of water supplied by the hand operated pump, stone crocks of milk were cooled, to be skimmed of cream for butter, made into cottage cheese, or used in other ways.

A small, dark room opened off the large dining room. Aunt Fannie called it the "buttery" — most people would have called it the pantry. In it were dishes, flatware, loaves of home made bread, jars of jams and jellies, and apple butter made from the fruit of their orchard. There was also a jug of, "apple jack" (apple brandy) which Uncle Will kept for medicinal purposes. It did seem to disappear quite rapidly sometimes. The kitchen was small.

Aunt Fannie was a good housekeeper and cook, and a hospitable hostess. Her biscuits were the lightest. So were her feather beds — light and puffy. Theirs was a typical parlor, complete with horse hair sofa, reed organ, center table with stereoptican viewer, and music box. The Bible was always prominently displayed. It was also read. Aunt Fannie and Uncle Will were charter members of the Prairie Creek Baptist Church, and active in the work of the church. Uncle Will would occasionally be brought before the board of deacons for using profane language. He would be suspended for a time, but was always reinstated.

Uncle Will had been held in Castle Rock Prison during the Civil War. His war stories were endless. He was a sixty-four year member of the Masonic Lodge.

Remembering Uncle Will and Aunt Fannie in their later years, they were an impressive sight, when on their way to church on Sunday morning — A rather stout old man with long, white beard (a bit tobacco stained) a dainty little lady dressed in her best, in a top buggy drawn by a shiny black horse named Prince, who pranced and arched his neck as if to say, "Look At Us".

Frances H. Sinsel 1843-1929; William F. Sinsel 1841-1928 *Written by Dorothy Sinsel Rains*

PAUL J. SLEGEL

Paul J. Slegel, son of Michael P. and Frances (Janusek) Slegel was born 6 June, 1905, at Butte, Nebraska, married Clatilla Farrell 4 November, 1933, at Central City, Nebraska, and died 19 November, 1972, at Central City, Nebraska. In 1913, he moved with his family to Central City, and, from that date, he was never interested in living in any other area. His love for Central City is shown by his activities in community affairs.

Paul graduated from Central City High School in 1922, and entered the engineering college at Iowa State University. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. After graduation, he returned to Central City to work for his father, who operated the Crystal Ice Plant. This plant delivered ice to Central City and the rural areas by trucks.

In 1940, Paul purchased the Ice Plant from his father. In 1946, because of dwindling demand for ice, he opened a Propane Gas business known as the Central Gas Company. The gas trucks traveled the old ice truck routes to deliver to the rural customers. This proved to be a successful operation.

Paul Slegel was a talented musician. In high school, he played piano in the dance band known as "Vern McDonald's Kids". He supported his college expenses playing in dance bands. He was ever generous with his talent among friends. He was the church organist for St. Michaels' Church for twenty-five years.

In 1962, he sold the Central Gas Company to Northern Propane. He remained with the business, as manager, until his retirement in 1967.

Paul was a member of the Merrick County Foundation. He was long associated with the March of Dimes Program, serving as Merrick County Chairman. He was a member of the Doctor Procurement Committee for Central City.

Always interested in aviation, he earned his pilot's license and flew his own plane for several years. He was a member of the Central City Airport Authority since its inception, serving as secretary-treasurer of the Board. After retirement, he became Airport Manager until his death.

Paul Slegel was interested in any project that meant advancement for Central City. *Submitted by Clatilla Farrell Slegel*

MR. AND MRS. ANDREW SMITH

Andrew Smith was born the day the Civil War ended, April 9, 1865 to James and Rebecca Smith, in Cambridge, Ohio, of Scotch-Irish immigrants who mined coal on their farm and spun their own



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Smith — 50th Anniversary

wool. At twenty-one he came to Central City to visit an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. George Little. Unable to obtain a homestead, he rented a farm near Chapman.

He married Angeline Neth, born January 14, 1870 in Illinois, the daughter of George and Salome Neth who came to Merrick County during her early childhood. Soon the Neths went on to Oklahoma and staked a homestead near Hobart.

Smiths' only child, Mildred (Mrs. William Knight), was born April 23, 1888. That winter he narrowly escaped freezing in the Great Blizzard being caught in it while getting hay. Luckily he and his dog kept each other warm in a hole in a haystack.

They went to Ohio for several years returning to Chapman to face the challenge of the frontier again. They opened a hardware supplying building materials, barbed wire and windmills for the locality. Later they built a General Merchandise Store, (the building now owned by the Masonic Lodge-housing the Post Office), truly a "mini-mall" that had everything from jewelry, shoes, dry goods to foods, where farmers could trade their cream and eggs for groceries. Open late weeknights, "Andy" often slept in the store, piling up boxes against the doors when there were rumors of breakins. His daily trips to Grand Island Wholesalers on the ungraveled "River Road" were made in a truck with solid rubber tires. Angie was businesswoman, bookkeeper and clerk when few women worked outside their homes. They often accepted chickens, pigs and calves in payment of grocery bills. Closeby was their "ice house" filled with ice sawed when the Platte River froze. Basketball games were played by lantern light in their hay barn in the western part of town.

After thirty years of storekeeping they moved to their farm north of Chapman. There, without electricity, almost totally self-sufficient, they practiced the arts of the pioneer: milking cows, churning, gardening, preserving meats, fruits and vegetables, butchering, quilting, shoe mending, washing "on board", incubating eggs — yet always having time for friends.

Mr. Smith held many offices of public nature, including that of county supervisor, school board member, and he helped organize the Chapman Telephone Association in 1903. They were life-long members of the Baptist Church. He was a member of the Friendship Masonic Lodge; she of the Laura May Chapter of the Eastern Star.

Angie died October 13, 1943 at Chapman. Andrew lived to be ninety-one, dying at the Hord Hospital in Central City May 11, 1956. Their daughter, Mildred, died March 12, 1966. Surviving, remembering them with much love, gratitude and fond memories are their grandchildren, Andrew Knight, June Vipperman and William R. Knight. *Submitted by June Knight Vipperman*

ED AND MARIE SMITH

Edmund Smith and Annamary Caldwell, affectionately known as Ed and Marie grew up in the same neighborhood south and west of Central City. They attended the same school, enjoyed the same outings and parties and on February 24, 1909 were married in the Caldwell home.

Although the Smith and Caldwell farms were only two and a half miles apart they were representative of two different eras in our culture. The Smith farm was located near the old lone tree on the California Trail and next to the Platte River which was a source of energy as well as an abundant supply of water. It was on this California Trail that many a wagon train wound its way westward. It also served as a route for the Indians of the day. Occasionally they would have Indians stop by to sharpen their tools on the grind-stone in the yard. If they ventured toward the house, Mrs. Smith would put some of the children to bed and say they had small-pox which was a dreaded disease among the Indians.

In contrast to the Smith farm being connected to the past, the Caldwell farm had its connection to the future because it was located one half mile from the Union Pacific railroad, making possible increased trade and better communication with the rest of the country. Boyd Caldwell's priority when looking for a farm, after following friends to Nebraska from Iowa was 'it must be near a school', in this case



Annamary and Edmund Smith

District #48. Instead of Indians the Caldwells had gypsies come to their house begging or stealing as they traveled along the railroad route.

Shortly after their first daughter was born, Ed and Marie moved onto the Caldwell farm which had been vacated by Marie's parents who had decided to make their home in California.

It was on this farm two and one half miles west and south of Central City that they spent the most fruitful years of their lives, raising their three children and accumulating their fortune. Their children attended the same school as their parents before them. Upon the death of the Caldwells, Ed and Marie bought out the heirs and became the owners of the land they tilled. They continued to live on this farm until 1945 when they retired and moved to California and built themselves a home in Annaheim close to their daughter, Rosina, and her husband. Up until this time Ed had never lived more than three and one half miles from Central City.

Ed and Marie experienced great changes in farming during the time they resided on the farm. They went from horse drawn machinery and dry land farming to the tractor and pump irrigation. What a thrill to see the corn continue to be green through the dry summer along with the anticipation of increased yields.

Ed lived out the balance of his eighty-seven years in their home in California. Upon his death Marie returned to the area in which she was raised close to relatives and friends. She made her home in Merrick Manor until her death in 1973.

The Smiths had three children: a daughter, Phyllis, who with her husband, Dr. Henry Greving, still reside in Central City; a daughter, Rosina, and her husband, James McKenzie, live in Annaheim California; and one son, Oliver, who with his wife, Bette, make their home in Hastings.

Ed and Marie's descendants include five grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren all residents of Nebraska. Their grandchildren are Jeanne Greving Hauserman of Auburn, Gwynne Greving Kuhn of Aurora, Sue Smith Maggart of Norfolk, Pat Smith McKinney of Wauneta and Scot Smith of Aurora.

GORDON SMITH STORY

On July 28, 1938, Gordon Wayne Smith and Jeannette Irene Shaw Cook were married in Central City. Gordon was born at Cushing, on April 12, 1914, son of Clifford L. Smith and Dora Westcott Smith. Gordon's nationality is English, Irish, Dutch and German. He is the oldest of a family of seven. Four brothers, Raymond E., Eldon C., Kenneth C. and Calvin L. Two sisters, Dorothy J. Keating and Helen L. Gilbert.

Jeannette was born at Ringling, Montana, on March 26, 1917. She is the daugbter of James Lewis Shaw and Viola Buckland Shaw Cook. Jeannette has a twin brother, James L. Cook, and a half-brother, Fredrick M. Cook. Jeannette's nationality is English, Irish and a touch of Indian. Jeannette remembers coming to Nebraska when five years of age, on her first train ride. She lived in Sargent, Nebraska for a short time before coming to Palmer.

Times were rough and Gordon started out with a bank acount of $60.00. The first garage building was on Main Street and rented for fifty dollars a month. Gordon recalls having cleared $12 and a few cents the first month he was in business. They also recall that their grocery bill was approximately $3.00 per week. Hamburger was twenty-five cents a pound.

After ten years of a childless marriage, Michael Wayne Smith was adopted. He was born on September 18, 1947 and adopted from the Nebraska Children's Home, on June 2, 1948. Michael spent all of his schoolyears in Palmer, graduating in 1965. He attended trade school in Milford, until he entered the service, and served time in Vietnam. He married, and Gordon and Jeannette are the happy grandparents of two girls, Jacqueline Rae, and Nicole Paula. Michael lives in Houston, Texas, where he is in computer work for Gulf Oil Company.

Gordon joined the St. Paul Masonic Lodge in 1952, and is a member of K.Y.C.H., and a Shriner. Gordon is a past patron of Eastern Star and Jeannette is a member of the Daughter of the Nile, in Hastings. Gordon is a charter member of the Central Nebraska Shrine Club Motor Patrol. He has taken part in many parade activities, not only in Nebraska, but several other states as well. He is also a member of the Scottish Rite in Hastings.



Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Smith

Gordon has an interest in antique cars, of which he has several. They have a 1926 Oldsmobile, which is now on loan to the Museum in Central City. The car was bought new by Ruth Daily, who was well known in the Palmer area. *Written by Dorothy Smith Keating*

RALPH EMERSON SMITH

Ralph Emerson Smith, son of James and Edith Porter Smith was born February 11, 1897 at Fort Steele, Wyoming where his father was a Telegraph Dispatcher for Union Pacific Railroad. Soon the family moved to St. Libory, then to St. Paul, Nebraska, and came to Central City in 1905. They built the large home on 12th Street to accommodate the family of thirteen. Ralph had five sisters and five brothers, Fred, Julia, Vera, Ray, Clara, Laura, Charles, Harry, Earl and Florence. All are deceased but Charles L., Weaverville, North Carolina and Vera E. Smith St. Petersburg, Florida. Ralph was a member of the Methodist Church and attended Central City Schools, working for Rolley Tooley



Ralph E. Smith — 1954

and Edgar Schiller Drug Stores when World War I began. Ralph went to Omaha, Nebraska to enlist in the U.S. Navy March 11, 1918. He trained at Great Lakes Naval Station near Chicago and on to Naval Hospital in Pelham Bay, New York. Ralph often related the sad task of caring for men afflicted with influenza, lacking proper drugs to combat the terrible epidemic that took so many lives at that time. He was honorably discharged in 1919 as a 3rd Class Pharmacist and Navy Nurse.

He was employed by M.A. Larson & Mark Carraher in the Nebraska Realty Auction Company as Secretary for several years, also devoting some time selling insurance. Ralph was a Charter member of the American Legion Lone Tree Post #6, was Adjutant for several years and Post Commander in 1934. He helped the Post raise money sponsoring air shows, carnivals and many popular home talent plays, also Junior Baseball teams. He was a Loyal member of the American Legion Drum & Bugle Corps that became winners at many Legion contests in Nebraska, which took them to the National Legion Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1929. On January 24, 1923 he married Helen E. Nordstrom, daughter of N.O. Nordstrom and soon became associated with Nordstrom Cleaners & Launderers, where he excelled as a well known dry cleaner through out the state. After the death of Mr. Nordstrom, Ralph and Helen managed the business, becoming the owners in 1943. In 1948 they sold to Charles L. Smith, hoping to retire and enjoy a more leisurely life. Ralph passed away May 10, 1955 age fifty-eight. Ralph became a member of the Masonic Lodge Lone Tree #36 in 1925, also a member of the Council & Chapter. He was Worshipful Master in 1929-1931. Being a dedicated citizen of this community he willingly participated in civic affairs. His dry wit and humor seemed incredible. His hobbies were landscaping, flowers and reading. He was given a Masonic funeral with Brother Walter Raecke, Past Grand Master of Nebraska officiating, with full Military Honors by American Legion Lone Tree Post #6 at the graveside. *Submitted by Helen E. Anderson*

TINY GRANDMA SMITH

Elias Sylvester Smith was born in Ohio, July 23, 1852, and died at his home one mile north of Central City, Nebraska, January 17, 1926. He was united in marriage to Mary Eschilman on December 1, 1873, at Robinson, Illinois. To this union ten children were born. After some time, the family moved to Butler County, Nebraska, and then on to Central City. Their sons were Orley, Vern, Ota, and Roy. Their daughters were Etta Page, Fannie Nugent, Della King, and Bessie Troutman. No record of others.

Because Grandfather Smith died before I was born, I will tell only of my "Tiny Grandma". Tiny she was, and that way everyone knew which grandma we were talking about. Tiny Grandma lived with her daughter, Fannie Nugent, in the house north of Central City, where Richard and Alice Butt live today. The times we went to visit weren't all that often, but I do remember the pump on the south porch that was their water supply. The "restroom" was out back. There was a cookstove with a warming oven and a reservoir for heating water. Wonder who carried out the ashes? I'm sure they had a battery-operated radio at that time. I do remember very well the old pump organ in the front room and the yellow roses on the front fence.



Mary Smith with sons Vern and Orley, daughters Fanny, Nugent and Etta Page

Tiny Grandma had been injured many years ago in a car accident and had a crippled hand, and for many years she was almost blind. She always had a hankie in her hand to wipe her eyes. Her Bible, her radio playing hymns, and listening to the sermons, and the good care of Fannie made her last years happy at their last home on C Street, in Central City, Nebraska.

Among the great-grandchildren still living near here are Raymona Page Grigsby, Joan Scholl, Barbara Scholl Garrett, Dale and Don King, Darrel Montgomery, Paul Page, Janice Smith Finley, Darlene King Richards, and Marilyn Scholl Hare. *Submitted by Raymona Page Grigsby*

VERN HENRY SMITH FAMILY



Ethel and Vern Smith — 50th Anniversary

Vern Henry Smith (February 1, 1883-October 11, 1974), was born in West Terre Haute, Illinois. His parents were Elias (1852-1926) and Mary Eschliman Smith (1854-1948). They came to Rising City, Nebraska, in 1892 by covered wagon. On the wagon trip to Nebraska, he told of picking wild berries in the evenings. In 1894, they moved to Merrick County. Vern began working at the Hord Ranch in 1900. Ethel Pearl Reynolds (January 9, 1888-December 8, 1974) was the daughter of Ordo (1858-1936) and Emily Sandeman Reynolds, (1862-1940). She was born in Woodford County, Illinois. She told of coming to Nebraska in a covered wagon. As they crossed the Loup River, one wagon couldn't make it, and the wagon and people were washed away. Ordo Reynolds worked at Archer, Nebraska, for eight years as a butter maker. In 1896, he was placed in charge of the Mead Creamery in Central City. Later he became janitor for the school, which he held for twenty years, until his death in 1936. My grandparents were married on November 2, 1905. They lived and worked on the Hord Ranch until 1933, when they went into farming for themselves. They retired from farming in August, 1968, and moved to Central City, residing at the Merrick Manor until July, 1970, when they moved to Parkview Home. They are buried at Central City. Their children are: Harley Eugene (April 29, 1906) married Mae Pettigrew and has two children, three grandchildren and one great-grandson. Harley is retired and living in Phoenix, Arizona. Henry died at birth May 12, 1907. Harry Vernon (June 27, 1910) married Nelda Marr (my parents). They have two children and six grandchildren. He was Postmaster at Waco for thirty-one years before retiring in 1975. Dick was born May 9, 1915. He served in the United States Navy during World War II. When he came home, he engaged in farming until retirement. He lives in Phoenix, Arizona, and in Central City. Mable Pearl (April 8, 1917) of Chesapeake, West Virginia, married John Best. She has six children and eight grandchildren. Vernie Henry (October 27, 1919) of Central City married Audrey Gleason. They have four children and six grandchildren. He served in the United States Army in the North African and Italy Campaigns as a 2nd Lt. Vernie has been associated with the Ford Garage for thirty-six years, and Audrey has been employed with the Central City School lunch program for the past thirteen years. Harold Donald (April 17, 1921) of Leesburg, Florida is a retired Navy Officer. He has one daughter and four grandchildren. Vivian Lucille (August 31, 1925) of Lexington, Nebraska, married Charles Land and has six children and six grandchildren. Inez Pearl (September 9, 1928) of Grand Island, Nebraska married Gerald Burmood. She has three children and four grandchildren. *By Janice Smith Finley, Granddaughter of Vern and Ethel Smith*

B.E. SNODGRASS FAMILY

Benjamin Edward Snodgrass, the son of Benjamin Taylor and Sarah Ann Snodgrass was born October 18, 1871. He moved with his parents from Missouri to the Clarks vicinity and attended the Baird School. On February 18, 1896 he was married to Sarah Ellen Gould. They made their home in Colorado and Missouri before returning to the Central City area. He was a member of South Side Evangelical Church and a past member of the Modern Woodman.

They lived on a farm northeast of Central City then moved to the Vernon McDonald farm northwest of Central City which they rented for several years.

To this union were born eight children: Sylvan Mae Snodgrass, March 24, 1897, Cecil Snodgrass, December 30, 1898, Archie Lee Snodgrass, August 8, 1900. Roy Edward Snodgrass, September 2, 1902, Vivian Ellen Snodgrass, November 7, 1906, Vera Alice Snodgrass, August 21, 1910, Vanda Lucille Snodgrass, March 27, 1915, Gerald Benjamin Snodgrass, July 27, 1917.

The children attended School District #51 in Merrick County and School District #55 in Nance County.

Cecil passed away January 19, 1899 and Roy passed away November 12, 1911. The family then moved on a farm of their own fifteen miles north of Central City. Archie Johnston of Chapman, a very good friend of the family, began helping the family at the age of twelve years old.

On July 13, 1919, Mrs. Snodgrass passed away leaving the six children alone with their father. Mr. Snodgrass ran a threshing machine and corn sheller for the entire community for many years. On December 7, 1959, Mr. Snodgrass passed away.

Sylvan married Emmett Daniel French July 4, 1921. Two children were born to this family. Archie Dale of Tekamah, Nebraska on June 11, 1922 and Verna Mae Ball of Jefferson, Iowa on April 17, 1928. Emmett passed away in 1946.

Archie married Esther Mary Garrett on February 15, 1928. Three daughters were born to this



B. E. Snodgrass

family. Evelyn Martha born December 16, 1929 and Lois Wyvonne born October 26, 1933. They both reside at Palmer, Nebraska. Velma June Christy of Greeley, Colorado was born October 7, 1936. Archie passed away February 4, 1972.

Vera married Leonard Friedrichsen on October 2, 1940.

Vanda married Ervin Leonard Zehr on December 17, 1939. Four children were born to this family. Nellie Ann Travers of Central City was born June 9, 1942, LeRoy Edward of Palmer, Nebraska was born April 14, 1946, Darlene Louise Van Ostrand of Grand Island, Nebraska was born March 16, 1949 and Carol Jean was born November 18, 1950.

Vivian and Gerald lived on the farm until her death on April 24, 1976 and Gerald then moved to Central City where he resided until his death February 10, 1981.

Mr. and Mrs. Snodgrass, Archie, Roy, Vivian, and Gerald are all buried at Pierce Chapel Cemetery near Clarks, Nebraska. Cecil is buried in Colorado. *Submitted by Vanda Zehr*

MIKE SOCK FAMILY

Mike Sock and Eva Szumovicz were married in Cracow, in the home of Witalis Boroviak, the first couple to be married in the Cracow Parish.

They farmed and raised a family of twelve children in Nance County, south of Genoa, Nebraska.

In 1920 they purchased the Lundgren farm in Merrick County and started out the oldest sons, Adam and Ben. When Adam married in May, 1921, he moved to the Pope Farm. When Ben married, Mike, Sr., and the family moved to Merrick County about three and a half miles west of Silver Creek on Highway 30, while Ben moved to the farm in Genoa. His son, Ray, farms the place now.

Phil, Adam, Charles, John, and Mike, Jr., married in due time and farmed different places within the vicinity of Silver Creek. After several years all the family married, except Mike Jr., and settled, Adam, Phil, Charley, John, Mike Jr., Celia (Kubas) and Catherine (Gentlemen), around Silver Creek, while Ben retired later to Fullerton, Joe and Carrie (Stachura), Columbus, Mary (Dudzik) and Elizabeth (Konwinski), Omaha. Of the family of twelve, six are deceased. Parents deceased: Mike Sr., January 13, 1949; Eva, March 26, 1958. Children: Adam, April 7, 1974; Phil, April 21, 1980; Charles, June 16, 1975; John F, September 14, 1975; Mike Jr., July 17, 1969; Elizabeth, November 11, 1978; Son-in-law, James Gentlemen, August 19, 1966. Grandchildren: Elizabeth Louise, October 5, 1946; James Leland, December 10, 1938. Great grandson: Scott Powers, October 12, 1976.

After the death of Mike Sock, Sr., Mrs. Sock lived with her son, Mike, Jr., and daughter Catherine, who married James Gentlemen and continued farming. In 1954 she decided to retire, so she sold the farm to son, Joe, and the Phil Sock family moved to the farm, while Mrs. Sock with Catherine and James moved to Silver Creek where they purchased a home. Mike Jr. also purchased a home east of town.

Eva Sock passed away March 26, 1958. Not too many years later, James Gentlemen passed on. Catherine lived with their two daughters. After the girls grew up, Shirley married and Dianne is making her way.



Michael and Eva Sock



Phil Sock Family — 1963

In 1966, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Sock retired and also bought a home in Silver Creek, while their son, John W., and family moved to the farm which he farms at present.

Phil Sr. passed away April 21, 1980, after almost nine years in hospital and nursing homes. He is survived by his wife, Helen, seven children, thirty-one grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Roman Sock, the eldest of his family, also farms within the vicinity of Silver Creek, Merrick County. The Mike Koziols (Marianne) live in Grand Island and operate an upholstery and ceramic shop. The Don Chohons (Helen Marie) farm in O'Neill. The Bill Moores (Barbara) live in Columbus. He is employed at Behlen's. Phil Jr. is district manager of Pioneer Seed Corn Company in North Platte, while Jerry is also a district manager for the same company in Schuyler. *Submitted by Mrs. Phil Sock, Sr.*

SOETH-EHLERS

Cholera was the grim reaper aboard the river steamer 'Sultana', traveling from New Orleans, and on June 7, 1849, Ida Klindt Hagge wouldn't wake up. She was buried on the bank of the Mississippi. Six weeks earlier she and her six children had left Hamburg, Germany on the sailboat 'Elbe'. Continuing on a small steamboat 'Uncle Toby', the remaining family arrived in Davenport, Iowa, where one of the daughters, Anna, married John Vieregg. They had one daughter, Emilie. Anna died at childbirth and her sister, Wilhelmina Stolley, cared for little Emilie along with her own baby, Fred.

Father, John Vieregg, and his now grown-up Emilie, settled in southwest Merrick County (Vieregg Township) sharing a log cabin with the Stolleys. This cabin is now on display at Stuhr Museum.

Born in Schleswig, Holstein, Germany, 1853, August Beckmann came to Grand Island at age sixteen. Some years later his brother and parents joined him and homesteaded nine miles northeast of Grand Island, which has been my home my entire life.

The Beckmanns constructed all their buildings, with the exception of the house, from logs which they freighted from the Loup River.

In 1876 August married Emilie Vieregg. Thirteen years and seven children later Emilie died and August moved to a farm one mile from the homestead. One of the sons, John Beckmann, celebrates his seventy-sixth anniversary this year with his wife, Alma. August's oldest daughter, Tina, helped him raise the family and in 1896 married Theodore Ehlers. They settled across the road from the Beckmann home and three children were born to them, the youngest being Ella, my mother. Ella was never to know her mother, for in ten days Tina died and a frail infant was brought to the home of Henry Ehlers. Henry's wife raised Ella along with her family.

One mile down the railroad track was the Lockwood loading station. There lived a young man, Rudy Soeth. As Ella came walking home from school, Rudy would be sitting on the loading chute waiting to chat with her.

Rudy's parents, Harder and Elsabe Rowheder Soeth, came from Piessen, Germany in 1882. Upon arriving in the area they worked on the Theodore Sievers farm south of Grand Island before moving to Lockwood. Four of their seven children were born during this time. In 1909 the Soeths purchased the Beckmann homestead, adding improvements, including the barn, 1913, which is still very much in use. One being my grandchildren swinging from a rope tied to a cottonwood rafter and falling in the straw.

In spite of the move Rudy was still close to Ella and when he began to court her in 1917 he had only to walk across the road. From September to December of 1918 he served in World War I. In September of 1919 they were married and were able to spend fifty-four happy years together. About ten years ago my parents and I were still milking cows. One evening as my dad walked out to get the cows a bit of romance in his soul inspired him to pick mom a bouquet of wild flowers. Whenever anyone asks me "What is love?" I tell that story.

Ella, now eighty, still lives on the homestead, grows beautiful flowers every summer and enjoys the visits of her family. My sister is Elinor Fagan. She has four children: Dian Eigenberg, Tom, Jim



Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Soeth

(two children, Chris and Erin), and Gary (Shanny and Travis). My children are Cathi Roark (Todd, Tammy and Tessa), Sherry Nez (Stacy), Tim Judy and Chelle Larson.

The Vieregg-Stolley cabin, Beckmann homestead, Theodore and Henry Ehlers homes and Soeth home were located in a five mile radius.

As I throw a log, from a tree planted by my great grandfather Beckmann, in my sixty year old stove, belonging to my parents, and watch my grandson (seventh generation) who lives here, roam the woods and fields, I feel securely planted with very old roots. *Submitted by Carol Larson*

WILLIAM ELLIS SOLT



William E. Solt Family

William Ellis Solt was born May 14, 1863 in Loren Stevenson County, Illinois to Jacob and Lucetta Jane Best Solt.

He married Nellie Agnes Cudney March 19, 1884 at Aurora, Nebraska. They moved to Merrick County in 1896. William was caretaker of the Central City Cemetery for thirty-two years. They were among the first members of the Friends Church. Lillian, a daughter, was the first child born after the Church was built so was named for Mrs. Mott, wife of the minister. Children born to this union were William Walter, Lula Mable, Addie Lucetta, Guy Wilbur, Leslie Waine, Lillian Agnes, Gladys Naomi, Stella Ruth who died at ten months, Donald George and Inez Louise.

Nellie Agnes Cudney Solt was born May 4, 1867 to Ruben and Elizabeth Cudney in Wappela Louisa, Iowa. They moved to Hamilton County, Nebraska in 1872.

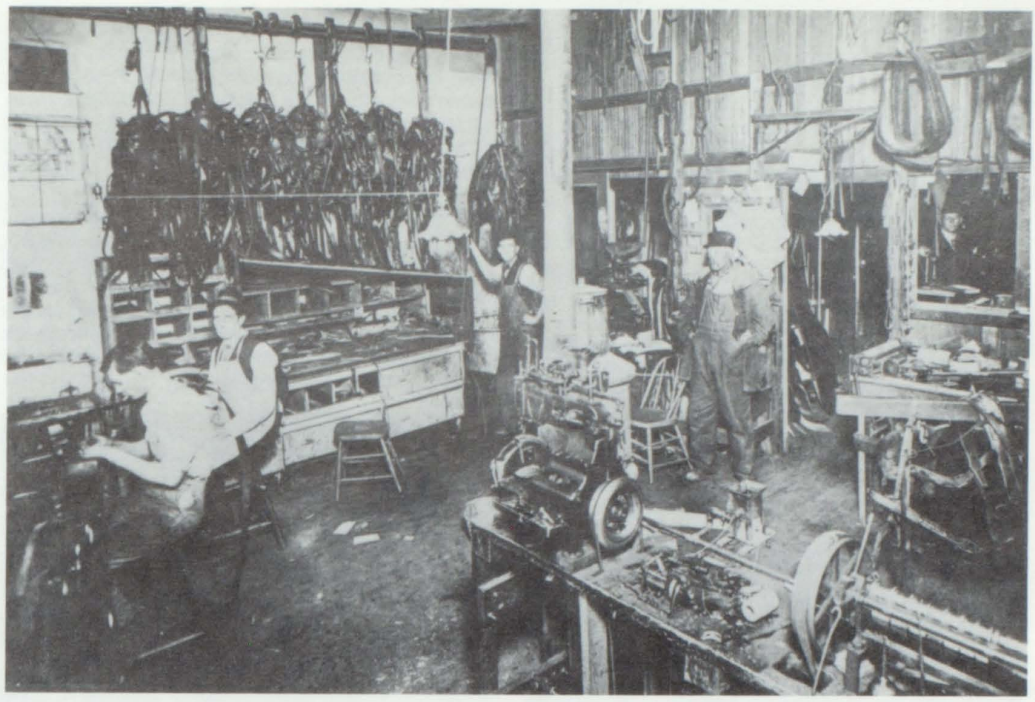
Nellie Agnes Cudney's grandparents were Robert and Emorilla Cudney. They came to Iowa in 1841. Emorilla died in 1852 leaving a son, Ruben Westfall Cudney, an orphan at the age of eight years. Ruben was born January 2, 1844 in Louisa County, Iowa. He married Elizabeth Naomi Griffin Cudney January 24, 1866 at Wappela Louisa County, Iowa. She was born May 30, 1841 in Lafayette, Illinois.

Ruben served in the Civil War in Company 1 Bissels Regt. Missouri Engineers 1861 to 1864 and was honorably discharged July 22, 1865 at Louisville, Kentucky in 1872. The Government encouraged soldiers to take up a homestead so in 1872 they started from Iowa in a covered wagon and settled eight miles southeast of Central City, at that time called Lone Tree. They built a home of prairie sod. Grasshoppers took their crop and only the strong hearted stayed. Central City was their closest trading post and a day's journey. They forded the Platte river. Elizabeth relieved human suffering and helped deliver babies. Ruben was known as veterinary surgeon. Indians called on them for food and wanted to trade knives but respected their wishes when they said no. The school building was used for church debates, spelling bees and all public gatherings. The teacher boarded with families close to school. Ruben Cudney died June 13, 1903 at Lewiston, Idaho and was buried there. Elizabeth died January 8, 1916 at Central City, Nebraska and was buried in Hamilton County.

William Ellis Solt died June 24, 1932 and was buried in Central City. Nellie Agnes Cudney Solt died June 1, 1934 and was buried in Central City.

William Solt, Jr. was a barber in Central City on the triangle. The shop burned in December 1975.

Leslie Solt was a mortician in Central City. His grandson, Leslie Solt is now the mortician. Leslie's sons, Ronnie and Leslie Mitchell, Kathy Mesner, Archie Johnston, Larry Johnston and his sons, James and John, are the surviving members who live in Merrick County. *Submitted by Mrs. Archie Johnston*

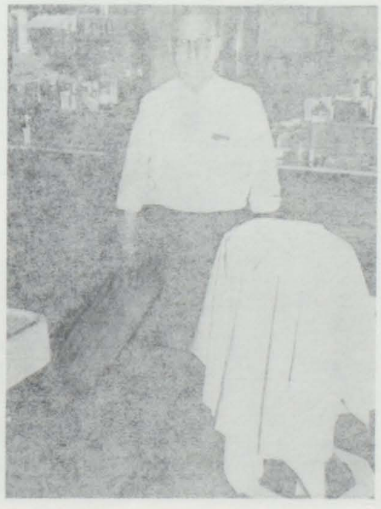


Hoagland Harness Shop
L — Guy W. Solt. R — William Solt.

WILLIAM WALTER SOLT

William Walter Solt, son of William Ellis and Nellie Agnes Cudney Solt, was born in Hamilton County at Aurora, Nebraska, May 20, 1888. When he was still a young boy, he and his family moved to Central City. On October 5, 1910, he married Clara Louise Morris. Clara was born September 9, 1887, at Chapman, Nebraska. To this union two sons were born, Lloyd Ellis Solt and Earl Wayne Solt.

William started his career as a barber in 1913 in Central City and in 1916 he moved to the shop on the triangle in which he operated for 50 years. In December of 1975, this shop along with other buildings on the block, burned to the ground.



William Solt — 53 years of Barbering, 50 years in same shop, Central City

Lloyd Ellis Solt married Leta Ruth Withers of Lincoln, Nebraska. Two daughters were born to them; Virginia Ruth and Carolyn Sue.

Earl Wayne Solt married Hazel Viola Perrel at Aletha, Kansas, on May 14, 1938. One son was born to them, Roger Lynn, on December 1, 1947 at Grand Island, Nebraska. William and Clara have eight great-grandchildren.

William and Clara lived all their married life in Central City, Nebraska, and were active in many of the activities in the community. Included were, The Knights of Pythias and the Pythian Sisters. They were affiliated with the Friends Church.

Clara Louise Solt passed away July 31, 1959, at Central City and was buried at Central City. William Walter Solt passed away July 25, 1966, at Central City and was buried at the Central City Cemetery, also. *Submitted by Viola Johnston*

LESLIE WAINE SOLT

Leslie Waine Solt, son of William Ellis and Nellie Agnes Cudney Solt, was born November 4, 1897 in Merrick County at Central City, Nebraska. He attended school at Central City. He was married to Beulah Marie Turney of Chapman, Nebraska, on October 21, 1920. Beulah was born at Albany, Missouri, May 20, 1899. Leslie and Beulah were married in her parent's home at Chapman. Attendents were Ina Burkman and Donald Campbell.

Leslie apprenticed with Earl Martin to learn the trade of a mortician and got started in his career. In 1923, Leslie bought out the Martin Mortuary and



Leslie and Beulah Solt — 50th Anniversary

Furniture Store and started his own business in a wooden building on the triangle in Central City. Their business was in the back and Lawson's flower shop was in the front. Leslie, at the age of twenty-one, was the youngest licensed mortician in the state of Nebraska. The next, and present location of the mortuary was an apartment building that they turned into a funeral home.

Two sons were born to this union. Ronald Everett on September 1, 1925, and Merlyn Wayne, born October 4, 1930.

Ronald and Merlyn went to school in Central City. Ronald became a mortician. He married Helen Erickson of Hordville. Merlyn became a chemist at the Federal Center in Denver. He married Violette Morris of Knoxville, Tennessee.

The Solts were active in community life in Central City. They became members of the Presbyterian Church, Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, Knights of Phythias, and Odd Fellows Lodges. Leslie was active in the Chamber of Commerce and served for years on the library board and the Nebraska Central College Board.

Leslie and Beulah continued in the mortuary business until 1963; when, after the death of Ronald, they decided to sell the business and retire.

Leslie passed away December 1971 and was buried in the Central City Cemetery. *Submitted by Viola Johnston*

RONALD & HELEN SOLT

Ronald Everett Solt was the son of Leslie W. and Beulah Turney Solt. He was born at Central City on September 1, 1925.

Ronald grew up in the Central City community and as a young man was soon involved with helping his father in the family business, the Solt Funeral Home. His progress toward his goal of being a mortician was interrupted by four years of service in the navy during World War II. He was eighteen years old when he enlisted, just following his graduation from high school. He served on a hospital ship and in the South Pacific.

Following his years in the navy, Ronald returned to Central City and attended Nebraska Central College.

On June 12, 1948, Ronald married Helen Erickson, daughter of Victor and Emily Nicholson Erickson of Hordville. Helen was a Home Economics teacher in the Central City Schools.

In September 1948, Ronald began Mortuary Science School in St. Louis and Helen continued as a home economics instructor in the Central City Schools.

Ronald returned to Central City in the spring of 1949, to work with his parents in the Solt Funeral Home. He passed away from a heart attack on September 28, 1962.

The Solts were members of the United Presbyterian Church of Central City, Masonic Lodge, and Eastern Star, American Legion, and many other business and professional organizations.

Following her husband's passing, Helen went back to work in her chosen profession, Home Economics Education. She became the Merrick County Extension Home Economist in 1963. She continued working in this position until 1972, when she became a supervisor for Cooperative Extension programs in thirty-two Nebraska counties.

Ronald and Helen had two children, Leslie Victor (born May 11, 1950) and Kathryn Louise (born March 13, 1953).

Leslie married Eugenie Wagner of Sterling, Colorado on July 31, 1976. Leslie attended Hastings College and Los Angeles School of Mortuary Science and then returned to Central City to purchase Solt Funeral Home from J.C. Byers in 1974. Genie graduated from the University of Northern Colorado and received her Master's Degree in Vocational Business Education. Les and Genie have two sons, Ronald Eugene, born August 28, 1978 and Leslie Mitchell, April 22, 1981.

Kathryn and Clifford Mesner were married on March 23, 1975. Kathy was trained as a physician's assistant and has a Master's Degree in Adult Education. Clifford is an attorney and is a member of the Phares, Torpin, Vanderheiden and Mesner Law Firm of Central City. *Submitted by Viola Johnston*

ROY & EFFIE SPENCER

Roy Leander Spencer and Effie Arena Gagle were married in Merrick County, Nebraska at the home of her parents on the John George Gagle farm, on January 25, 1905 with Rev. W.H. Underwood officiating. Guests included Mrs. C.J. Persons and daughter, Maude, and Miss Nellie Burke of Central City. Maude played the wedding march.

Roy, second son of James Lewis Spencer and Margaret Eunity (Ripley) Spencer, born July 15, 1878 near Harvard Nebraska in Clay County, came to Merrick County to seek work and met Effie.

Effie was born to John George and Martha George (Burke) Gagle on February 14, 1880 on the John George Gagle farm and attended school at the Burke Rural School.



Roy and Effie Gagle Spencer

Roy and Effie set up housekeeping on the Mott Place, an acreage on the College Section, owned by Effie's father. Effie did laundry for the college students while they lived there. From the Mott place they moved to the Shelton Place and did co-operative farming with a brother-in-law, William Harvey Kuhn and family, later moving to the Flood Farm. In the spring of 1909, the Spencer family moved by train to Hitchcock County to help his widowed mother on her farm ten miles north of Stratton.

In 1917 the family bought a model T Ford and traveled to Hastings to see a circus and on to Merrick County to visit the Gagle relatives and friends.

After Roy's mother died April 22, 1928, he bought the Spencer Estate of 320 acres which he sold to Elmer Carpenter in 1930. In the spring of 1931 he moved his family to his newly purchased home, the Andrew R. Felzine cattle ranch on the Bob Tail Creek south of Palisade. It was here Roy died of a heart attack on September 29, 1945.

Effie sold the farm to Orley Troxel in 1946 and spent her remaining days with her children. She died of a heart attack following a short illness of flu, at the home of a daughter, Margaret, in Anaheim, California on December 24, 1961.

Their seven children were:

FaVola Angeline, born October 16, 1905, Merrick County, graduated from Stratton High School 1924 and after a long illness, died on March 17, 1926.

James Norton, born June 14, 1909, Hitchcock County, farmed in Custer and Hitchcock Counties and did construction work, married and had four children — one deceased. Retired in 1971 and lives in Litchfield, Nebraska.

Helen Shirley, born June 23, 1911, Hitchcock County, received her degree from U.N., retired from teaching in 1976, married to Carl Ekstrum and has two children.

Ruth Lorraine, born January 4, 1914, Hitchcock County, received her degree from Kearney State, retired from teaching in 1980, husband, Lawrence Hayward, died May 5, 1980. She has two daughters.

Russel Burdette, born June 18, 1916, served in the Army in World War Two, married and has two children, retired in 1978 from the Frenchmen Valley Ditch Company.

Margaret Irene, born August 26, 1921, Hitchcock County, married Everett Scott, has four children, and lives in Anaheim, California.

Esther Fern, born July 12, 1923, Hitchcock County, married Daniel Doyle and has four children, now lives in Wichita and works at an elementary school.

Roy, Effie, FaVola and Roy's mother, Margaret, are buried in the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery eleven miles north of Stratton in Hitchcock County. *Submitted by Helen (Spencer) Ekstrum*

DEAN & SANDRA SPIKE

Dean Walter Spike was born October 29, 1931 in Dixon County, Nebraska to Walter Lars and Helen Edna (Ream) Spike. In March, 1961, he moved to Silver Creek where he, his brother, Donald Merle, and his father purchased and began operating Spikes Service Station and Motel, formerly owned and operated by Al and Romay Wandro. In 1966, Dean was appointed Postmaster in Silver Creek, a position he held until July, 1980, when he assumed the duties of Rural Carrier for the Silver Creek Post Office.

Dean served in the United States Air Force from May 21, 1952, until April 30, 1956. He has been active in scouting, American Legion, and Civic Club since his move to Silver Creek, and was awarded the Ak-Sar-Ben Good Neighbor citation in 1978. On June 27, 1970, he married Merry Sandra (Patterson) Haase at United Methodist Church in Silver Creek, where they are members, with the Rev. E. John Kess officiating.

Sandra was born December 25, 1934 in Red Oak, Montgomery County, Iowa, to Harold Leroy and Edna Mae (Swanson) Patterson. Her two sons, Jeffrey Doyle Haase and Chuck Douglas Haase, were born in Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska on July 30, 1953, and October 24, 1954, respectively. Jeff married Virginia Ann Leuenberger of Tecumseh, Nebraska September 20, 1977. They now reside in Lincoln, Nebraska. Chuck and Joyce Oxner Schinkel of Grand Island were married January 15, 1978, and make their home in Grand Island. They are the parents of two daughters, Stacey Lynn Schinkel, born December 5, 1972, and Laura Sandra, born July 11, 1978.

After 15 years in Omaha, Sandra and her two sons moved to Columbus, in February, 1969, where she was on the charter non-teaching staff at Platte Community College, serving as secretary to the first Dean of Faculty, Dr. Vernon Taylor. She and Dean met through mutual friends at a wedding dance at the Pioneer Ballroom in Silver Creek on May 9, 1970. Sandra has served as state secretary-treasurer of the Nebraska unit of the Auxiliary to the National League of Postmasters, is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit #263 and a charter member of the Peppy Pacesetters Home Extension Club.

Dean and Sandra lived in the Glen Mustard, Jr., house, near 4th and George streets, from the time of their marriage until November of that year, when they purchased the Russell Merrill home at 1st and Chestnut streets in Silver Creek, where they still



Dean and Sandra Spike — 1979

reside.

Dean has two other brothers, Wayne Leroy Spike of Primrose, Nebraska and Carroll Kevin Spike of Boone, Nebraska and one sister, Darlene (Spike) Fischer of Fairmont, Nebraska. Sandra has one sister, Mrs. Donald (Patricia Ann) Beckenhauer of Columbus, Nebraska. *Submitted by M. Sandra Spike*

WALTER & HELEN SPIKE

Walter Lars Spike, son of Andrew and Anna Mattson Spike, was born in Wayne County, Nebraska, July 4, 1908. His parents were born in Sweden. His father emigrated to America with his family when he was a child. Anna came in 1888 at the age of twelve, with sisters Carrie, age 15, and Signe, age 10, and brother Otto, who turned 6 on the voyage. The children joined their father and two brothers in Burt County, Nebraska.

Helen Edna Ream was born September 5, 1908, at Homer, Nebraska, to Carl and Elizabeth Antrim Ream. Her father was born in Dakota City, Nebraska, and her mother in Homer, Dakota County, Nebraska. Elizabeth's mother was three when she came to the United States from England.



Walter and Helen Spike

Walter and Helen were married February 21, 1930, and had five children. Donald Merle, born October 2, 1930, and Dean Walter, born October 29, 1931, were born in Dixon County. Darlene Joyce was born February 22, 1933 in Laurel. Wayne Leroy was born March 1, 1935, in Cedar County. Carroll Kevin was born August 1, 1951, in Boone County, Nebraska.

Walter and Helen first made their home in Laurel, Nebraska, later in Clarkson, Leigh, Albion, Newman Grove, and Omaha. The move to the V.J. Heine Pilot Ranch near Primrose was a big event for the family. Helen and Walter bought a farm in Merrick County, renting it to Ivan Dittmer, following the dispersal sale of Heine & Spike. They moved to the farm with Dean, Wayne, Kevin, and Helen's mother Elizabeth Ream in 1960. Little Gram Ream loved the little trailer home moved in for her. The family enjoyed their wonderful neighbors northwest of Clarks. Kevin attended Pleasant Hill school. Walt and Dean worked for neighbors in the area and Kevin herded cattle along the roadside all summer.

In 1961, Walt, Dean, and Don had a sale and the Spike family moved to Silver Creek, purchasing Al and Romay Wandro's filling station and motel. Elizabeth Ream became ill and passed away in 1964.

Dean became postmaster in Silver Creek in 1966, and in 1970 married Sandra Haase. She had two sons, Jeff and Chuck. In December 1966, Kevin married Connie Cutsor and moved to Boone, Nebraska. They have three children: Amy, Bridget, and Jesse. Wayne married Virginia Hemmingsen and they farm near Primrose. They have two daughters, Brenda and Shari. Don met and married his wife, Shirley Earle in Newfoundland. They had four sons: Dwaine, Randy, Brian, and David. The family has lived in California since 1980. Darlene married Richard Fischer and live in Fairmont, Nebraska. They have five children: Jim, Jeanette, Cindy, Linda, and Danny.

Walt and Helen are retired, living in the Park Place Apartments in Silver Creek. They plan to stay in the town that has been their home for the past twenty years. *Submitted by Mrs. Dean Spike, as told by Walter and Helen Spike*

GEORGE SPILGER FAMILY

George Spilger and his wife Margaretha Jahn Spilger settled one mile south and two miles west of Palmer, Nebraska in 1911. George was born November 5, 1859 in Buffalo Prairie in Rock Island County, Illinois. He died October 1, 1937 Palmer, Nebraska. Margaretha Jahn was born July 13, 1864 in New Prague, Minnesota. She died November 18, 1950 Palmer, Nebraska. They were married March 25, 1889 at Edington, Illinois.

In 1890 they moved to Rogers, Nebraska in Dodge County, where they purchased 160 acres of land. Seven children were born there: twins Charles and John, Eva, Margaret, Fred, George and Paul.

In 1906 they traded their land for a quarter section in Holt County near Atkinson, Nebraska. A son Henry was born there and died at the age of seven months.

In 1911 they traded their land for the land near Palmer. Plans were to go as far as Oklahoma before settling down, but this proved to be their last home. The trip from Atkinson began March 9th, 1911. They, with their seven children and worldly goods, traveled with three wagons, eight horses, two mule teams and a pony and dog.

The pioneer spirit of friendliness prevailed as they were sheltered for the night along the way. They traveled 20 miles the first day and spent the night with friends. The second in a big sod home, the third in a big empty barn. The last night at Wolbach was most memorable as the wife cooked a big meal for all of them and gave birth to a baby during the night. Before leaving the next day, the husband gave them a gift of seed corn. Traveling through the hills was tedious as wheels had to be tied to keep from rolling too fast. They passed through the village of Palmer before arriving at their farm home the night of March 13th. A three room house with a lean-to porch awaited the family.

A day or two after arriving they visited with Ed Smith, former tenant of the farm. After Ed found out they wanted to buy cattle, he told them a neighbor had bought his just to help him out and was sure George could buy them back. He did and the cattle willingly came back home.

A windstorm that spring destroyed everything but the house and another small building. A 24′ by 24′ two-story house was moved in for larger living quarters and several large new farm buildings built. George was a good carpenter.



George and Margaretha Spilger

Each of the children purchased farms of their own in the Howard County area. Three sons are living. Fred eventually moved to a farm near Clarks, and Paul to one near St. Paul. George Jr. now owns the original farm. He and his wife Helen reside on the adjoining quarter.

A great-grandson Douglas Patton now lives on and farms the above land. *Submitted by Gladys Spilger Patton*

THE SPIRES FAMILY

Frederick K. Spires and his wife, Sarah, came from England in September 1881. In 1882 they moved to Nebraska, settling in Merrick County. They owned what was known as "Cedar Stock Farm" in the Pierce Chapel area and in 1907 bought 300 acres at the edge of Clarks. There he built a home for his family of six children; Richard, Frederick, Robert, Joseph, Ada and Clyde.



Mrs. L. J. Leander with daughters Maxine and Elaine

My father, Frederick, married Ethel Clayton and they settled in Fullerton where he worked in a meat market until Robert and Joe went to war. At that time they moved back to Clarks to run the farm as by now my grandparents were divorced. Later Dad went to work for Armour Company as salesman. They moved to O'Neill, Nebraska where they had their family, Elaine and Maxine. Just before we started to school the folks moved to Long Pine. Daddy traveled during the week and we always looked forward to him coming home. He usually brought us a surprise and child-like we loved it. At one time he brought us each a red squirrel and had to build a cage for them. A short time later they chewed their way out of the cage and disappeared. Another time he brought us white rabbits. We dressed them in doll clothes, wheeled them in our doll buggies and for awhile they replaced our dolls. This came to an end when our two rabbits became a family of several.

We spent many happy vacations at the farm and in 1932 we moved to Clarks where the folks bought a farm close to Grandma. In 1938 my parents bought a cafe in Fullerton and Elaine and I finished high school there. Dad passed away in 1940 and Mother continued to run the Spires Cafe until the fall of 1945. By this time Elaine was married to Earl Gilson and I was married to Jack Barr. Mother later bought a hotel which she ran until her marriage to L.J. Leander of Coulee City, Washington. Mother moved to Washington where she lived for twenty five years before moving back to Fullerton where she still lives.

Jack and I lived in Fullerton, where our family of four children were born, until 1952 when we moved to Fairbanks, Alaska. This proved to be a unique experience and a wonderful place to raise a family. It was a challenge to survive the 50° below zero temperatures in the winter or a bear in camp in summer. All of the children still live in Fairbanks with their families but Jack and I have moved to Homer since he retired. We have a small commercial fishing venture and Jack works with the Coast Guard Auxiliary in search and rescue. I keep busy with Beta Sigma Phi, the Homer Beautification Commission and spend many hours compiling the family history. *Submitted by Maxine Spires Barr*

LOUIS & MARY STANDER

Louis (L.H.) Stander was born at Louisville, Nebraska on September 21, 1873. Mary Spangler was born at Pictown, Ohio on August 1, 1877. She came with her parents to Cass County, Nebraska while very young. Louis Stander and Mary Spangler were married at her parents' home near Plattsmouth, Nebraska on March 4, 1900.

Their first home was on a farm south of Manley, Nebraska. Three children were born here: Earl, Howard and Herbert.

In 1910 they sold this farm and moved to a farm a mile west of Archer, Nebraska. Because Louis was crippled the level land around Archer seemed a better place for him to farm than the hills of Cass, County. Here two more children, Genevieve and Ralph, were born.

In 1920 they sold the farm west of town and moved to a place a mile east of Archer. They built a new house here very similar to the one they had built at Manley.

Louis and Mary were active members of the Archer Methodist Church.

Louis was always interested in having farmers cooperate and work together for better conditions. He was active for many years in the Farmers Union. He enjoyed the meetings and the convention held in Omaha. He served on the State Resolutions Committee for many years.

During the 1930's Louis worked very hard helping to start a Triple A Program (Agricultural Adjustment Act). Louis had great faith in Nebraska land and in farming as a way of life. All four sons were farmers and the daughter was a farm wife.

Earl married Lillie Rawlings. They had six children: James, Robert, Ila, Sara, Carol and Charles. Lillie died on December 23, 1971. After Lillie's death Earl married Marjorie Bonness.

Howard married Agnes Holmes. They lived on the "Home Place" east of Archer. Howard died on January 2, 1959.

Herbert married Neva LaVelle. Their farm was two miles east of Archer. When they retired, they moved to Grand Island.

Genevieve married Alvin Brink. They had three children: David, Edgar and Janet. After Ralph's death they moved to Ralph's farm east of Archer. Alvin died on March 4, 1981.

Ralph farmed the first place east of Archer, known as the "Yeik Place". Ralph died January 2, 1952.

Mary Stander died on September 1, 1927 and Louis Stander died on September 25, 1943. All of this family have been buried in the Central City Cemetery. *Submitted by Genevieve Stander Brink*

WILLARD STANLEY FAMILY

Willard L. Stanley was the son of Benjamin and Mary Jones Stanley. He was born March 13, 1861 in Damascus, Ohio, coming to Merrick County with his parents in 1883. His father was a Quaker preacher, and worked in other occupations about Clarks, such as in a creamery, until he moved to Olathe, Kansas.

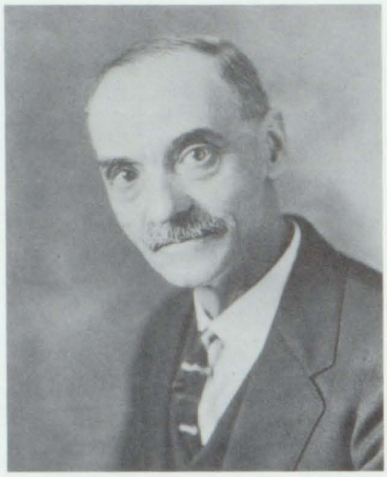
When grown, Willard built up a thriving general merchandising business in Clarks. Headquarters of his dry goods and grocery store were on the northeast corner of main street, where the fire station in now located. A Central City resident, Martha Saneman Hummel, still has a pair of shoes purchased for her there when a small child. The previous owner was S.E. Starrett, under whom he was employed for several years. Before coming to Nebraska, he was schooled and had become qualified to teach in the Ohio Counties of Mahoning and Columbiana in years 1879 and 1880. He was in the employ of Ohio Lumber Company, Cleveland, Ohio at one time.

Willard married Alice Brunk on March 16, 1886. The ceremony was held at her parent's home. Alice Elvira was the daughter of Elizabeth Welton David and William Brunk.

The Stanley's built a two-story home on 417 West Amity Street in Clarks in 1909. It is now owned by the Roger Luebbe family.

Mr. Stanley had been born and reared a Quaker, but later he became a member of the Clarks Methodist Episcopal Church. He was a faithful worker, serving on the Board of Trustees and Stewards on various occasions and being the Sunday School Superintendent for seventeen years.

The children of William and Alice Stanley were: Vera Vivian (1893-1965), Lucile (1889), Cecil Willard, Kenneth Paul and another daughter, both of whom died in infancy, Lucile, a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan, Lincoln, and a teacher in the Kearney Public Schools, died as young woman and was buried in the Clarks cemetery.



William Loren Stanley

Willard L. Stanley, with his wife, moved in 1918, to Central City, the county seat, after being elected Merrick County Clerk, where he held office for two terms. He was next appointed Assistant Clerk in the House of Representatives in Lincoln, serving two legislative terms, 1927-1929. Both were active in the Central City Methodist Church. Mr. Stanley passed away August 22, 1930 and his wife, Alice, on August 29, 1941. They are buried in the Clarks Cemetery.

Viva Davis Whetstine recalls how her brother, Earl, spent much time at the W. Stanley home, and vice versa, as their homes were not far apart in Clarks.

Lucile Stanley, while attending Nebraska Wesleyan, spent all her spare time doing the interior decorating in the new home the Stanleys had built.

Vera and Cecil attended Nebraska Wesleyan, also. Main transportation to and from the state capital city was by Union Pacific Railroad.

To celebrate birthdays, holidays, anniversaries, etc., the Stanley's, Grandma and Grandpa Brunk, the Davis Five, the Irwins, and the Chandler's gathered.

The Clarks Methodist Church (now United Methodist and over one hundred years old) has a Memorial window honoring the W.L. Stanley's and Ellsworth Davis'. *Submitted by Stanley Torpin*

JAMES STARK FAMILY

James (Jim) Stark was born in Rogers, Nebraska, September 27, 1883. He died December 31, 1962, in Grand Island, Nebraska, at age seventy-nine. Nellie Adams was born October 10, 1887, in western Nebraska, near Flagstaff. She died January 17, 1965, in Grand Island, Nebraska, at age seventy-seven. Both were laid to rest in the Alda Cemetery.

Nellie moved back to Pleasanton, Nebraska, until she was in the eighth grade, then continued school to the 10th grade at Rogers. She was a seamstress before marrying James Stark on August 6, 1906, in Grand Island, Nebraska. They lived there about five years, then moved to a farm near Rogers. In September, 1930, they moved to Alda. On October 8, 1945, they moved to Central City so that they could be closer to Nebraska Central College for Thelma, Clarence, Verna, and Irma to attend. They remained in Central City until their deaths. Jim worked for Ralph Tilley, and then for Standard Oil Station until his retirement.

The children born to them were two boys and four girls:

Glen was born in Grand Island August 8, 1907, and died August 17, 1968 in Grand Island. Married Jessie Pinckney September 15, 1937. They had three children: Arlene born August 4, 1938, married Orle Carriker June 23, 1956, and had 5 children, Dale, Julie, Allen, JoAnn, and Danny. Dale married Charlene Crecker. Julie married Roger Chambers and has two sons, Steve and Scott. Leslie was born September 30, 1941, married Marlene Oberschulte and has children, Debbie and Beckie. They live just inside Merrick County near Grand Island. Janet was born June 20, 1946, married Steve Rainforth, and they have two children, Doug and Kristy.

Vera Stark was born in Grand Island December 4, 1909. Married Bert Payzant September 29, 1930. Bert died in Schuyler in July, 1964.

Thelma Stark was born in Rogers April 25, 1916. Married Neal Hensley in Central City April 4, 1953, and is presently living in Central City.

Clarence Stark was born November 22, 1920, in Schuyler. Married Mildred Saahs June, 1951, and had three sons: Jim, John, and Kent. John married Larie Adams December 23, 1976.

Verna Stark was born June 3, 1923, in Schuyler. Married Jack Price of Gering at Lincoln, Nebraska, November 12, 1952. Children: Daniel Ray, born April 22, 1954, married Danna Nickerson June 12, 1976, at Hayes Center, Nebraska, and had one son, David James born June 30, 1980. Karen Faye was born June 29, 1956, married Rich Lewis February 14, 1976, in Gering, Nebraska.

Irma Stark was born October 8, 1925, in Schuyler. Married Ivan Aycock January 15, 1954, and now lives in Central City. Ivan works for the State Department of Roads. Irma teaches at Lockwood School. Their children are: Terrell, born August 11, 1955, married to Sherie Husman June 14, 1975, has one child, Kara Jo born December 21, 1979. They're living on a farm in Mead Township and work for



James Stark Family

Elmer Stone. Teresa, born February 24, 1959, married Kent Mulkey December 31, 1980, in Central City. They live in Crete, Nebraska.

James and Nellie celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary August 5, 1956. They were members of the United Methodist Church. Jim belonged to the Masonic Lodge in North Bend. Nellie belonged to the Women's Society of the Methodist Church and Royal Neighbors. *Submitted by Neal G. Hensley*

LEO STAROSTKA FIVE GENERATION FAMILY

George Starostka was born in Tarnow, Poland 1858. Came to America in 1880. Worked laying the Union Pacific railroad to Wyoming. In 1883 purchased 160 acres for $1,200.00, five miles southeast Silver Creek, built a sod house. His mother came from Poland and kept house for him.

George married Mary Smole in 1887. Five of their eight children were born in the sod house. In 1894 built a new house, which still stands. George plowed with oxen, his wife walking prompting the oxen with a stick. Mary made butter, tied it to her back, swam the Platte river, walked two miles to Silver Creek, to sell and buy meager staples. They endured pioneer hardships, even hunger.

Third generation Don Starostka built a beautiful house on the homeplace.

Son Leo bought on auction sale, Will Tayor's 160 acres farm for $116.00 an acre, four miles north of Clarks in 1920. With a sixteen room house eight bedrooms, no doors between the partitions. The yellow house, pioneers mansion two family house built by the first owners, Daniel Boughner and Joseph Hill, Pennsylvania railroad engineers in 1881.

Leo and Eva Stopak were married February 1, 1922 in Cracow, Nebraska. Moved to the farm in April. Three sons were born to us, Clarence, Robert Lee and William.

In 1944 they build a house. In 1946 purchased Stevensons joining 160 acres for $10,000.00. In 1955 rented the farm to Bob. Build a house in Clarks. Purchased Allie Phelps poolhall. Leo operated the poolhall, were happy years playing cards with friends. Celebrated our Golden Wedding Day February 1, 1972. After lingering illness Leo died December 4, 1975.

Alone in the house my treasured memories, as I look across the street, where the St. Peters church stood, build in 1872. The wide sidewalk still there. Present St. Peters, build in 1926 is four blocks west.

As newly weds the first Sunday, we took the top down of our Model T. Ford neatly put case top on. After church services, we bought two ice cream cones, went on a trip to the "Howard Hill", four miles southeast of Clarks. We walked and looked at the canyons. Called the trip "Our Honeymoon".

Since then Leo and I went on many trips to different states, old Mexico. I recently went to Poland more than once.

Our honeymoon, a beautiful day, in our Model T. with the top down to the "Howard Hill", is my fondest memory.

We were blessed, sons living in Clarks, ten grandchildren, six great grandchildren.

The fifth generation to carry the name on are, Michael and Matthew, sons of James and Jane Starostka. James Leo said "Too bad grandpa Leo did not live to see the "Fourth Starostka", He would be proud"!

James, Betty Kropatsch and Marc are children of Clarence and Louise, Shorty's Bar owners. Willam World-Hearld supervisor. Robert and Rosella's children are Gary, Nancy Blauhorn, Cindy Wagner, Mary Jo, David Leo, Danny, and Tommy (deceased). *Submitted by Eva Starostka*

RAYMOND STAROSTKA FAMILY

This is the story of one Nebraska son who left the state after college, and years later came back and brought five more people with him.

Raymond Walter Starostka, the second child of Walter and Victoria Starostka, was born November 27, 1923, in a house south of the Platte River in eastern Merrick County. He attended District #23 School, sometimes riding a horse the two and one half miles south of his home. After Silver Creek High School graduation, he entered the University of Nebraska in Lincoln in 1940, enrolling in the College of Agriculture and working in the barns to pay his way.

His schooling was interrupted by army service. He served with the 43rd Infantry Division in the Pacific, Philippines, and Japan.

After World War II, he returned to Lincoln for his last year of undergraduate studies, graduating in 1947. He studied for one year at Purdue University and completed his work for a PhD in Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin in 1950. Then he did research for the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Beltsville, Maryland.

While at the University in Wisconsin, Ray met Kathleen Kennedy, who was attending Edgewood College. They were married June 6, 1951 in Evansville, Wisconsin. Her parents were John Angus Kennedy and Eveline Bourquin Kennedy.

From 1956, Ray did research for W.R. Grace & Company and International Minerals & Chemical Corporation until 1968, when he founded Agroservice, Inc., a fertilizer and chemical business in Silver Creek and consultant for other parts of the nation.

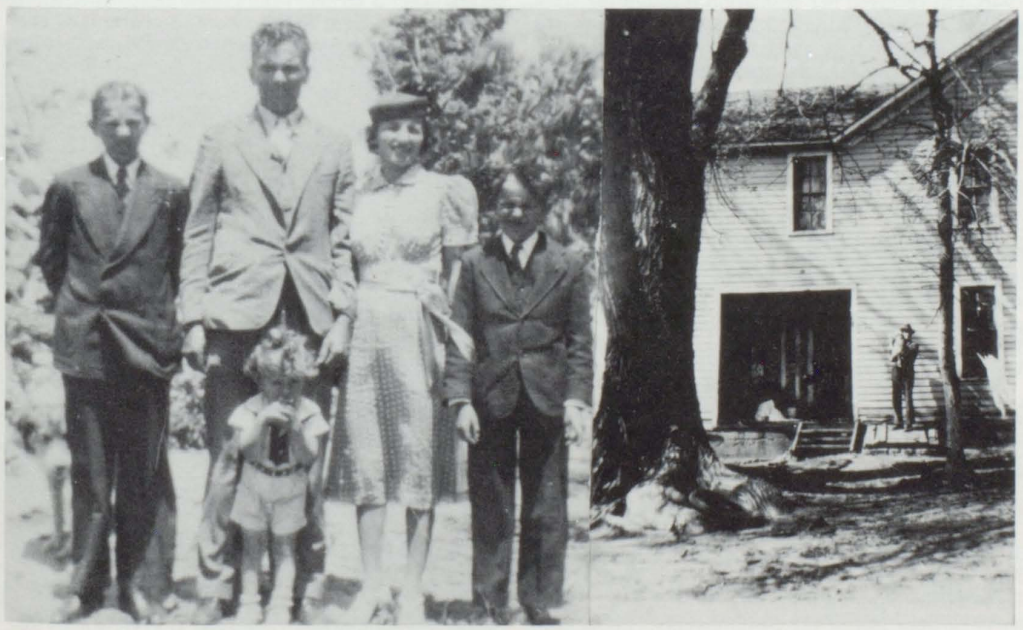
Kathleen works for Agroservice, and is the substitute rural mail carrier for Silver Creek.

Their four children, all born in Washington, D.C., are Charles Raymond, 1957, Mary Elizabeth, 1958, John Walter, 1959, and George Louis, 1961. Charles works for Agroservice. Mary is a graduate in social work from Mount Marty College. John works for a travel agency in Washington, D.C. George attends the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

The family attends St. Lawrence Catholic Church, where Kathleen is an organist.

Charles married Christine Urkoski. They have two daughters, Jennifer Lynn and Kelsey Ann.

Many foreign visitors, from such countries as Germany, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Jordan, Afghanistan, and India, working through Agroservice and the USDA, have come to this area to study methods of farming and fertilizer distribution. It is here, where he was raised and where his family grew up near the little village along the Platte River, that Ray has brought the world to us and we, in turn, have shared the richness of rural living at work, at school, at church, and at play, and have shown others the "good life" of Nebraska. *Submitted by Kathleen Kennedy Starostka*



Leo Starostka Family

GOLDIE MOYER STEARMAN



Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Stearman — Golden Wedding

I was born near Clarks, Nebraska, on August 27, 1898. My parents were John F. Moyer and Martha M. Donaldson Moyer.

When Mother was eleven years old, she came to Nebraska and lived with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Huff, near Nebraska City, Nebraska. My father's parents, Abraham and Jane Adams Moyer, came to Nebraska in 1874 from What Cheer, Iowa. They settled northeast of Palmer. My parents continued to make their home here until mother passed away in her sixty-fourth year and father in his eighty-seventh year.

On April 30, 1917, I was married to Wm. W. Stearman, formerly of Greensburg, Kentucky, at Columbus, Nebraska. To our union were born six children: Wm. T. of Omaha, Virginia Ann, who passed away October, 1974, Ralph W. of Crosia, California, May Etta Adamson of N. Hollywood, California, Virgil L. of Grants Pass, Oregon, Betty Jean, who passed away December 9, 1941.

In June, 1950, I was ordained as a minister in the Church of the Nazarene. I pastored at Central City and started the work in Palmer, Nebraska. I am still pastoring in Palmer, and also holding services in the St. Paul Nursing Home and the Palmer Nursing Home. My husband passed away September 25, 1972. *Submitted by Goldie L. Moyer Stearman*

JEAN STECKMYER FAMILY

My husband, Jean, was born in Grand Island and lived in a remodeled house which had been moved in from a farm. When it was torn down recently, the original fourteen inch thick log walls were revealed. I was born on a farm near Carson, North Dakota. During the depression years, we moved to the small town of Hudson, South Dakota. Upon graduation from high school, I went to Grand Island to live with a friend, Ruth Hall, and attend business school. There I met and married an Air Force pilot who was later killed in a plane crash in Alaska. After our daughter, Sharyn, was born in Cherokee, Iowa (I was living with my mother), I moved back to Grand Island. About a year and a half later, at the Glovera Dance Hall, I danced with a fellow who had dated my girl friend from business school. It was Jean. We were married five months later.

Jean was a salesman for a bakery, but we decided to try farming. After six years near Atlantic, Iowa, where our son, Steven, was born, we 'pioneered' on our farm in Merrick County south and west of Chapman. It was quite primitive for 1956. There was a small house with electricity, but no modern heating system or plumbing. The barns and fences were in such disrepair that I had to fight the hogs back in order for Jean to milk our cows. Ten years later, when the farm was sold, it was modern, attractive and productive.

It was sold for capital to start an auto parts store in Central City, where Jean has been active in both the machine shop operation and counter sales, while I did the bookkeeping. The building our store is in was built in 1890.



Jean Steckmyer Family — 1972

We have both been active in the Presbyterian church. Jean has served as both a deacon and elder. I taught Sunday school and am financial secretary. Jean has also been active in civic affairs. He has served on Chamber of Commerce and City Council, and is airport manager.

Our daughter, Sharyn, graduated from Grand Island Senior High and attended Kearney State, the University of Nebraska, and the Art Institute in Chicago. She married David Curtis from Chicago. They and their two sons live in Juliaetta, Idaho.

Steven graduated from Central City, spent three years in the Army and graduated from Oregon State. He is now an engineer with Boeing in Washington.

Jean will be remembered for his love of flying. He was a pilot with the Air Force during World War II and is retired from twenty years in the Reserves. At one time he had part ownership in a small private plane.

I will probably be remembered for my love of building and decorating. Because of this interest, we have built three homes, remodeled two and redecorated several others.

Our twenty-six years in Merrick County have been good! *Submitted by Joyce Steckmyer*

JAMES & ORISSA STEPHEN

My Grandfather, James Stephen, born in Scotland, came with his parents to the United States as a child. My Grandmother, Orissa Kingsbury Stephen, was the first white child born in Fillmore County, Minnesota. Her parents had come west from New York State. They were residing in Merrick County at the time of their deaths, and are buried in the Central City Cemetery. (Martin and Carolyn Kingsbury). Orissa graduated from Preston, Minnesota High School and Winona Normal School. While teaching in Clinton, Iowa, she became acquainted with James Stephen, whom she married at the home of her parents in Minnesota.

In 1880, as a bride, she came to Central City, Nebraska, with her husband, who shortly before had become established in business (owner of a lumber yard). They were residents of Central City at the time of their deaths, James in 1923, Orissa in 1932.

They were loyal supporters of Nebraska Central College from the time of its founding by the Methodist Church. In 1895, the Methodists closed the school. James Stephen sold his business and personal property in Central City and took possession of the college property. They and their children moved to the College Section and for a time made their home in the college building. At the organization of the Friends Meeting in 1898, James and Orissa became members of it and, it has been my understanding, gave the college property to the Friends and took an active part in its re-opening under the care of the Friends.

James Stephen served one term in the Nebraska State Legislature at Lincoln, Nebraska. Orissa was an active member of the Central City Women's Club and the WCTU. They were the parents of six children: James, Carolyn (Evans), Lucy (Myers), Emily (Davis), Robert, and Lillian (Van Zant). Lillian, the only child to live her entire life in Central City, resides in 1981 at Merrick Manor in Central City, Merrick County Nebraska. *Written by Gladys Myers Glantz*

GARLAND & PATRICIA STEPHENSON

Garland and Patricia (Pat) Larson Stephenson are native Merrick Countians. Garland was born June 9, 1928, in Central City to Lewis and Ruth Stephenson, in what was known as the Patterson house across the street from the Courthouse. The residence, now razed, was bordered by an iron fence which was badly bent, which Garland quipped he did during his boyhood days. Pat, the daughter of Arthur and Grace McClure Larson, was born July 18, 1931, on a farm five miles west of Central City on the Ormsby road and one-half mile south.

Garland received his entire education in the Central City schools, finishing with the class of 1946. Pat received her education through the sixth grade at District #8. After her parents moved to just south of Central City on Highway 14, she attended the Central City schools, graduating with the class of 1948.

A high school romance for the couple, led to their marriage in August of 1948.

They have made their home in Central City ever since their marriage.

Garland, following his father's footsteps, began working in the Nonpareil newspaper office in the fall of 1946 for publisher N. Kindred as pressman, learning linotype and makeup; then continued working for Elgin O. White after his purchase of the paper in 1950; and with a fellow worker, Darrel Willoughby, purchased the business from Mr. White in October, 1974.

All of the children, Randy (March 18, 1949), Terry (April 29, 1950), and Lavinia (Lynne) Galusha (April 22, 1955), were born in Central City. They are all Central City High School graduates.

Pat and Garland helped in the Boy and Girl Scout organizations during the children's association.

Following the childhood of the family, Pat worked at the Justice & Locke Drug Store for three years. She began working in 1968 in the office at the Republican-Nonpareil for Mr. White, and is presently Society Editor for co-publishers, Stephenson and Willoughby.

Garland has served on the board at the Valley View Golf Association, served as president of the Central Press Association in 1979-1980, is now a chamber board member, a member of the Lone Tree Literary Society and Eagles Aerie 3795. Besides his many hours as co-publisher of the paper, he has hobbies of golf and bowling.

Pat, at one time a Junior Woman's club member and extension club member, is now a member of the Lone Tree Literary Society, and enjoys the hobbies of bridge playing and bowling.

The couple also enjoy their five grandchildren: Stephannie thirteen, Mark two (Randy's children); Brenda eight, Amy five (Terry's children) and Justin seven months (Lynne's son).

The Stephensons are members of the Central City United Methodist Church. *Submitted by Garland and Pat Stephenson*

RAY STERN

Ray Stern was born to Ted and Ida Graves Stern 17 February, 1920, in Nance County, Nebraska. Ray attended grade school at District #26 west of Fullerton, and was graduated from Fullerton High School in 1938.

In 1941, Ray came to Merrick County. He worked for William Finn for one year and then farmed for himself on the farm northwest of Clarks where the Bill Dexter family now lives.

Ray attended auctioneering school in Mason City, Iowa, in 1948 and has cried many sales in the area since that time. At the time of the redistricting of schools, Ray offered his auctioneering services free for all the school closing sales in the area. Ray has also auctioneered at many church and school functions to help in money-making projects.

Ray was in the grain and feed business from 1958 until 1980. He continues to sell veterinary supplies to farmers and cattlemen in the area.

Ray's home was moved in 1957, from Havens to the present site. It was originally the first grocery store in Havens. Extensive remodeling was completed before Ray moved into town in 1958.

Ray is very interested in antiques and is the proud owner of an antique from nearly every early family in Clarks. He has many interesting stories to tell.

Ray's daughter, Sharon, (Mrs. Roger Vergo) and her family live in Pueblo, Colorado. *Submitted by Ray Stern*

LOUISE NIEDFELT STOBBE

Louise Niedfelt Stobbe was born on August 4, 1897, at Grand Island to Diedrick J. and Ella Scherzberg Niedfelt. She was married to E.H. (Sam) Stobbe on March 20, 1920. He was the son of Albert and Dora Bredthauer Stobbe and was born on March 28, 1899, in Valley County, Nebraska.

Louise and Sam Stobbe lived on a farm near Wood River, later moving to Grand Island. Sam served several terms as the Hall County Sheriff.

Louise and Sam Stobbe were the parents of one son, Frank, who married Myrtle Black. Louise passed away June 2, 1973, and Sam passed away May 7, 1975. They are buried in the Grand Island City Cemetery. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

LENA STOFFREGEN

Lena Marie Alvina Niedfelt Stoffregen was born March 20, 1902, in Merrick County to Diedrick J. and Ella Scherzberg Niedfelt. She married Friedrich Richard Emil Stoffregen (Fritz) on April 2, 1932. Fritz was born October 6, 1901, at Bad Salz Detfurth, Germany, to Robert and Augusta Friese Stoffregen.

Lena and Fritz Stoffregen have lived on their farm near Cairo, Nebraska. They have one daughter, Caroline, who is married to Delmar Eggers. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

WALLY & JOYCE STOKEBRAND

My husband Wally and I moved to Merrick County in March of 1977. We both grew up in Southeast Nebraska on farms near the town of DeWitt. After we were married we bought a house in DeWitt, where Wally worked at Petersen's Vise-Grip factory. He wanted to get into farming, so when his parents, Wallace and Donna Stokebrand,

decided to buy a farm near Central City, we made the move to Merrick County.

Our farm is located about five miles northeast of Central City, along Hiway 30. Many people around here refer to it as the "Old Bond Ranch". We mainly raise seed corn and feed out cattle. Our family has increased since moving here. We had our first child, a little boy named Luke, on July 30, 1979. We've really enjoyed living here because everyone has been so friendly and made us feel welcome. We hope we will have many more happy years here. *Submitted by Joyce Stokebrand*

HENRY STOLTENBERG FAMILY

Henry Stoltenberg was the son of Joachen and Cathrina Stoltenberg. He was born June 24, 1867 in Wendorfer Strand, Schlewig, Holstein, Germany. When he was three years of age, his Mother died and when he was five years old, his Father died. He had a younger brother, Richard. Both were taken care of by relatives until at the age of thirteen, Henry came to America and to Hall County.

Henry Stoltenberg was sponsored by the Stuhr family and they paid his passage to America, a sum of $60. He worked a full year on their farm, sleeping in the barn without heat or light, to earn that $60. He then made his living working on farms in Hall County.

On July 10, 1889, he married Dora Roby, born January 2, 1870. Dora was the daughter of Fred and Johanna Lilienthal Roby. She had one sister, Ida Lassen, and three brothers, Arthur, John, and Gus Roby. Henry and Dora began their married life on the old Roby homestead southwest of Grand Island, and moved to the Chapman community four years later. They farmed two miles southwest of Chapman for many years. Dora Stoltenberg was an excellent homemaker. Most of her efforts were for her family — cooking, sewing, and keeping a neat home. Birthdays and anniversaries were always celebrated with a house full of relatives and friends.

Three children were born to Henry and Dora Stoltenberg. A daughter Ida, born in 1890, a son Richard born in 1895 and died in 1909, and a son Ralph, born June 21, 1911. Ida was married to Lawrence May. They made their home on the Stoltenberg farm until Ida died in 1945. They had one son, Henry Oscar, born in 1921 and died in 1946. Ralph Stoltenberg married Edna Vipperman in 1931, and they moved on the farm northwest of Chapman. They have three sons and six daughters.

Henry and Dora built a new home two miles north of the home place in 1924 and lived there until 1944 when they retired and moved to Grand Island. Dora Roby Stoltenberg died in 1951. Henry Stoltenberg spent the last two and one half years of his life with his son Ralph and family.

Henry was prominent in the civic and business affairs of the community. He served over twenty years on the Board of Directors of the Chapman Bank. He was also a charter member of the Platte-Deutsche Society and was baptized in the Lutheran faith. He died at the age of ninety years in 1957. *Submitted by Edna Stoltenberg*



Henry and Dora Stoltenberg with Ida May

RALPH STOLTENBERG FAMILY

Ralph Stoltenberg grew up in the Chapman community. He was born June 21, 1911 to Henry and Dora Roby Stoltenberg. He attended District #2 Country School and Highschool in Chapman.

I was born February 9, 1914 in Pierce County, Nebraska, to Edward and Laura Rowling Vipperman. My father died when I was seven — leaving my mother at the age of twenty-eight with six children — the oldest was nine. I attended country school in Pierce County and high school in Foster and Chapman. My mother married Lloyd Daniels, December 17, 1928. My stepfather purchased a garage in Chapman and we moved to Merrick County in 1929.



Ralph and Edna Stoltenberg — 50th Anniversary

Ralph and I were married February 7, 1931. We spent most of our married life on the farm. In 1937, we moved to Denver, Colorado. Ralph worked for Cudahy Meat Packing and on the Fitzsimmons Hospital. Finding it hard to make a living for six, we returned to Chapman and farming in 1940. At the age of forty, Ralph went to work for the Union Pacific Railroad and worked there until retirement.

We are active members of the Baptist Church in Chapman. Ralph is a member of the Masons, Royal Arch and Shrine, and we both belong to Eastern Star. I have been an "Avon Lady" for twenty-eight years. We were married fifty years, February 7, 1981.

Our children and grandchildren have given us great joy. They are:

Ronald Ralph, born September 9, 1931 in Merrick County. He married Marlene Grosshans of Central City. They adopted twin girls, Karen and Susan, born February 18, 1966.

Barbara Elaine, born August 30, 1933 on the farm in Merrick County. She married Sidney Burch, Fredricktown, Missouri. Their children are Mark, January 10, 1961; Michael, February 2, 1965; and Lisa, April 17, 1966.

David Eugene, born in Grand Island, Nebraska, December 25, 1936, died August 18, 1964.

Eleanor Jean, born January 21, 1938 in Denver, Colorado. She married Bill Davis of Grand Island. Their children are Terry, June 16, 1958; Tommy, January 13, 1960; and Ricky, January 3, 1965.

Janice Kay, born August 1, 1940 in Grand Island. She married Max Brantley, Atlantic Beach, Florida. Their children are Jennifer, April 25, 1967 and David, May 8, 1973.

Judith Ann, born September 1, 1941. She married Robert Eversoll of Grand Island. Their children are Shara, August 18, 1962; Greg, February 16, 1966, Mary April 29, 1969; and Cynthia, January 19, 1971.

Douglas Lee, born April 6, 1944. He married Lorita Trieschman of Grand Island. Their children are Kaya, September 19, 1971; Bryan, August 25, 1972; Kelly, March 13, 1975; and Kristin, June 15, 1976.

Carolyn Sue, born November 3, 1945. She married Maurice Prauner, Fremont, Nebraska. Their children are Matthew, April 2, 1972 and Jenna, May 30, 1974.

Kathryn June, born January 21, 1947. She married Fred Stephens, Atlantic Beach, Florida. Their children are Jason, October 10, 1976 and Ryan, June 15, 1979. *Submitted by Edna Stoltenberg*

STONE FAMILY

Two year old Nicholas Adam Stone, son of Steen and Rogene (Niemoth) Stone, is now the fourth generation living at the "Stone Corners", so named and designated by folks using it for directional purposes. However; it was not always named thus, for when the first generation lived here there were few name places. In the family buggy or team and wagon, Gottfrid and Ida Stone or more likely Gottfrid struck out alone, leaving Ida to keep fires burning and care for her small son, Elmer, and two daughters, Hazel and Edith.

Let us tell you more of this first generation. Erik Gottfrid Karlsson was born in 1877 in Edsberg, Sweden, county of Nerike. It is recorded that a Swedish boy inherits his father's Christian name plus the word "son". Erik's father was Karl Johan Johanson, thus his became Karl's son of Karlsson. Later Karlsson was to be changed to Stone.

Having served part of his compulsory military training but disillusioned by its rigidity as were many young Europeans, Gottfrid embarked on the S.S. Lake Champlain on the Beaver Line from Stockholm on December 31, 1900 arriving at Ellis Island, New York on March 14, 1901. In later years when asked why, because of homesickness, he never returned, Gottfrid would answer, "Because the Atlantic never froze over". According to his son, Elmer, he was an excellent figure skater. He secured work in Chicago at a piano factory as a polisher. It was here that he met his future bride.

As colorful and adventurous as was Gottfrid's life so also was that of his wife, Ida Amalia Carlson, born in Wadstena, Sweden in 1883, the youngest daughter of Carl August Gustafson and Anna Charlotta Johanson. She had spent her early childhood under the shadows of one of the estate castles of the King, where her father was coachman and caretaker. As an adventurous maiden of thirteen, she came with her father to America, joining her four sisters in Chicago. Later she joined Gottfrid in Central City, where they were married.

Gottfrid's oldest brother, Charles, had married Ellen Sten. Because numerous Karlsson families lived in Hamilton County, and mail became too often mixed, they decided to change their name, using her surname, Anglicizing it to "Stone". Thus the third generation on Stone Corners, Steen Stone, was to inherit his name which literally translates "Stone Stone". It was also from Charles and Ellen Stone that Gottfrid and Ida purchased the family



Gottfrid Stone — Ida A. Carlson

farm in 1912.

We are three generations now still living on the Stone Corners, still farming, feeding, and raising Angus cattle. For fifteen years we have run a Grade A dairy although it seems we've milked forever. By "we" is meant Elmer and Mildred (Prochaska) Stone, Steen and Rogene Stone and little Nicholas Stone.

We've made our cycle. Gone is the Stone Corner's grove but the family home remains, somewhat changed. We hope we have fulfilled their dreams. Years come and go, memories multiply as well as fade, but the land lives on forever. *Submitted by Mildred Stone*

ELMER STONE FAMILY

He was born "down by the creek", or so was always related by our lovable, fun-loving teller. But then — not many baby boys can tell such a tale. The creek was Prairie Creek, east of the Carroll Johnston farm. The boy was Elmer Gottfried Stone. Born of immigrant parents, Gottfrid and Ida (Carlson) Stone, Elmer was always very proud of his heritage, can yet carry on a passable Swedish conversation and spin humourous Old World yarns.

By coincidence, the young lady he was to marry, Mildred, daughter of William and Louise (Moravec) Prochaska, was also born "down by a creek", that is, Elk Creek in Gage Valley. Nearby was her playhouse, the garden with strawberry and blackberry patches and there, too, was the rude, narrow man-made bridge from which her brothers, Harry and William and sister Wilma fished for imaginary catches.

Only ten miles separated this young couple who were not to actually meet until Elmer's sister, Edith, and Mildred's brother, Harry, were married. Then, in 1940, it became a double relationship when the young farmer and schoolteacher recited their marriage vows. Four children were later to join this Christian family; Catherine Lee (Tyson), Rebecca Kae, Deborah Sue (Davis) and Steen Meredith. Rogene Niemoth joined the family by marriage. None were born "down by a creek", but in the old Lutheran Hospital in Grand Island. The parents often wondered how they provided a college education for each child. At one time there were three attending the University of Nebraska, from which each was graduated. Catherine was graduated from William Penn College in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Let's return to the child who for three years lived by Prairie Creek, later moving to Loup Valley with his parents and older sister, Hazel. He too, had far-way dreams, aspiring to hitch his wagon, or tractor, or pick-up to the inevitable star. Always interested in social and civic endeavors, he helped build the Litzenburg Hospital, serving as chairman for six years. He also served as chairman of the boards of Palmer First Church of Christ, the Co-op Elevator and District #49. For six years he was a member of the State Farm Bureau Board, serving with our present congresswoman, the Honorable Virginia Smith.

Philosophizing that livestock is the back-bone of our economy, Elmer's main interests were raising Angus cattle, farming and later a 100 head cow Grade A dairy. He was among the first to participate in the performance testing program for beef cattle in Merrick County under the direction of Paul Guyer of the University of Nebraska and was also instrumental, working with a group of western Nebraska ranchers and the Extension Service, in establishing the still operative All Breed Bull Testing Station at Ogallala.

1981 records four generations of Stones having lived here. In a few more years we hope to say, "A century ago, Grandad Stone bought a farm in Loup Valley. We only hope little Nicholas Adam Stone will carry the tradition along towards another one hundred." *Submitted by Mildred Stone*

STRANBERG FAMILY

Arvid Stranberg was born December 4, 1911, to J. Emil (July 2, 1878-December 20, 1959) and Mary Swenson Stranberg (January 1, 1888-June 13, 1952). Other children were Elvira Nyberg, Elna Nyberg, Alvin and Vincent. Born on the original farm home of grandfather John Stranberg at Hordville, who had come from Iowa to Nebraska and purchased the farm from the U.P.R.R. John Stranberg lived from March 3, 1884 to November 22, 1935 and his wife Anna Lingstrom from November 1, 1849 to February 5, 1924.

Mary Swenson Stranberg came to America with her parents (Frank (September 1858-November 1937) and Hulda (December 1862-August 1953) in 1891) in 1888 when she was a baby. They came first to Chapman, Nebraska, later buying a farm just south of Central City in Hamilton County. The Swensons retired in Central City. Emil and Mary were married March 7, 1906. Both parents and grandparents are buried in Mamre cemetery near Marquette, Nebraska.

Arvid came to work for Larson Chevrolet in Central City in March 1937. On September 29, 1938 he and Edna Dahlberg were married in Omaha. Edna was one of six daughters born to Edward and Elma Mostrom Dahlberg of South Dakota. Her sisters were Judith, Alice, Edelyn, Gladys, and Bernice. Edward Dahlberg was born October 24, 1889, and died on December 28, 1933. Elma born May 9, 1889 and died November 18, 1961. Her parents and grandparents, August and Charlotte Dahlberg and Carl and Emma Lindquist Mostrom are all buried in the Randell Valley Cemetery, South Dakota.

God blessed the union of Arvid and Edna with two sons — Richard Waldon, born March 12, 1949 and Randel Wayne, born May 9, 1952. Richard married Wanda Didier, born August 21, 1952, to Bernard and Wilma Didier of Clarks. Their other children are Larry, Darrel and Rodney. They were married on October 23, 1971 and now have two children, Heather Renee, born March 28, 1978, and Richard Ryan, born November 6, 1980. Richard works for the city and Wanda is a L.P.N. at Litzenberg Memorial Hospital.

Randy married Debra (Debbie) Joyce Waterman (born September 20, 1955) on July 8, 1978. Debbie, a native of Gordon was one of three children born to Sidney and Wanda Waterman — Mike, Debra and Becky. They are expecting their first child in September, 1981. Randy works for Clarks Farmers Co-op Association. Debbie is a teacher at Clarks High School. Both Randy and Richard are volunteer firemen.



Elmer Stone Family



Arvid Stranberg Family

Arvid served in the navy in World War II (1943-1945). He opened Stranberg Carburetor and Electrical Service on the spring of 1946, retiring in 1977. He was a volunteer fireman for thirty years, active in church and community, serving on the City Council, School Board and four terms as County Supervisor. He was active in Boy Scouts, encouraging both sons to complete Eagle requirements. Arvid had an active part in establishing and building the facilities of the Evangelical Free Church. Edna was active in Scouts and worked in the cafeteria of Central City Schools for twelve years. She is active in her church. Hobbies are wood-working, gardening and camping. *Submitted by Arvid and Edna Stranberg*

ESTHER WILLHOFT STRASBURG

Esther Willhoft was the third child of John and Ida Willhoft. She was born at Central City on April 7, 1904, and attended school there. In February, 1922, Esther was married to Leonard Strasburg of Polk, Nebraska. They lived at Polk, Clarks, Lincoln, and Central City. Nine children were born to this union: seven girls and two boys. They are Joyce Stewart, deceased 1970; Jack D., Aloha, Oregon; Joan Smith, Bradshaw, Nebraska; James L., Portland, Oregon; Lois J. Pullins, Grants Pass, Oregon; Cleo J. Skinner, Hordville, Nebraska; Eleanor Douglas, Portland, Oregon; Katherine Bardsley, Grants Pass, Oregon; and Rachel Dahl, Rapid City, South Dakota.

Leonard Strasburg died on December 3, 1977 and was buried at Beaverton, Oregon. As of 1980, Esther is still alive. They have twenty-six grandchildren and fourteen greatgrandchildren, all living in Nebraska, South Dakota, Oregon, and California. *Submitted by Esther Strasburg*

LEONARD & ELIZABETH STROBEL

Leonard Strobel was born March 24, 1912, in York County, and Elizabeth Cotner was born May 4, 1917, in York County.

In 1936 we were married, then because of the drought and dust storms we moved to California in 1939. There Leonard attended welding school. He worked at Mare Island Navel Yard at Vallejo, California during the war. Dwight Strobel was born on November 11, 1941. We came to Clarks in Merrick County in 1946. We purchased the Blacksmith Shop from W.O. Golder.

Janet Strobel (Manstedt) was born in 1950.

Strobel's Blacksmith Shop was changed to Strobel's Industries when they moved to a new building in 1971. *Submitted by Leonard and Elizabeth Strobel*

HOLLIS STROMBERG FAMILY

On February 21, 1923, I was born at the home of my grandparents, Edward and Mary Boettner. Their home, located on the north edge of Clarks, was a big, two-story white house with many large, beautiful cottonwood trees around it. At that time my parents, Robert and Fern Lindahl, were farming

ten miles southwest of Clarks in Hamilton County. Due to hard times and poor farming conditions in 1930 we moved into Clarks and lived in the George Spires house just south of the school. My father got work with the Farmers' Elevator and Mother kept roomers for many years.

My two sisters, Anita and Shirley, and I all graduated from Clarks High School.

In 1937, Pete and Florence Stromberg moved to Clarks from Polk County where they had farmed about ten miles southeast of Clarks. Due to the terrible dry years they had to move and find work. Pete worked nights at the Farmers' Oil Station. Pete and Florence's family included: Hollis, Merwin, Wayne, Jeanette, Darlene, and Joyce.

Hollis was born in Polk County on May 24, 1919. He attended High Prairie School, but graduated from Clarks in 1938 the following year after the family moved to Clarks. Hollis then went to a sheet metal school in Omaha and from there to Wichita, Kansas, where he worked at the Beech Aircraft Factory.

Hollis and I were married on April 11, 1942 and made our home in Wichita for two years. In 1944 Hollis joined the Navy and I moved back to Clarks to live. During those two years Hollis was stationed in San Francisco, California, and the Philippine Islands where he worked in the postal service. In March of 1946 Hollis returned home and we bought the Thomas acreage on the west edge of Clarks where we've lived for thirty-five years.

Hollis drove the Farmers' oil truck for nineteen years and has worked for the Clarks School for sixteen years as custodian and bus driver. This year he is retiring as custodian and the school has honored him with many gifts of appreciation.



Hollis and Doris Stromberg

Our family includes Joan and Raymond Eugene Huele and their son, Johnny Ray of Columbus; Jean and Donald Neel and their family, Christine and Todd of Clarks; Lavonne, and James R. Clarke and their family, James, Amie, Anthony, Peter and Patrick of Aurora; and Gary and his wife Darla and their girls, Erica and Kelli Jo of York.

Hollis' hobbies are fishing and gardening. I love to sew and collect pink depression glass, but our greatest joy is our ten grandchildren. *Submitted by Doris Stromberg*

THOMAS STUART FAMILY

My grandfather, Thomas Stuart, was born ——, 1834. He was of Scotch descent but was raised in Colraine, County Dairy, Ireland. When he was twenty-one years old he came to America, and lived in Ohio until 1870 when he came to Merrick County, where he took a homestead east of Central City. He was an only boy with eight sisters. He raised eight boys and one girl: Dave — 1872, Lizzie — 1875, Will — 1877, James — 1879, George — 1880, Jack — 1884, Robert — 1886, Sam — 1890, Dick — 1892.

His fourth child, James was my father.

There were many stories of Indians who roamed the plains in those days. One in particular, when a band of about 500 camped on the bank of Warm Slough. When they caught my grandfather's straw



Thomas Stuart Family — 1887
Top l-r — Lizzie, James, Will, George, Dave. **Front l-r** — Robert, Mary, Thomas, Jack.

barn on fire, they all left in a hurry.

My grandmother Mary Aletha Gezen, with her twin sister Anna Gezen Boss of Silver Creek, came from Switzerland with an Aunt, a Mrs. Gass of Columbus, Nebraska.

Grandmother was very much afraid of the Indians and at one time when the boys were little, she sent them to the door when an Indian came and asked if their mother was home. The boys took him around back of the house where she had gone to hide.

They survived the tornado of 1878, and my grandfather died the year before the tornado of 1928 just fifty years later.

The remains of the old mill in our pasture still stands where they ground the wheat for flour in the 1880's.

The ruts of the wagon wheels are still visible in the pasture marking the old Oregon Trail as it followed Warm Slough and the Platte River west to Oregon.

Doctor Robert Manley says the richest heritage a child can have is a grandparent to tell him about his roots.



My husband, Donald Gray, and I live on the Stuart homestead where my father went to School District #37. My sister Josephine and I also attended District #37, as did our two children Michael and Marian Gray. *Submitted by Georgie (Stuart) Gray*

HEIKEDINA STUBBE

Heikedina Broers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Broers, was born in Hotland, Germany, September 22, 1860. She married Wert Stubbe in Germany where they lived until 1896 when Mr. Stubbe died. Mr. Stubbe made roofing tile. He was born in Femgum, Germany and lived there all his life. He died at the age of thirty-nine of pneumonia.

Mrs. Stubbe remained in Germany with her five children until 1906 when they came to the United States. She also brought a nephew (who was an orphan), William Hybrook, with them. They started from Germany, then to England, where they were inspected and went through a series of vaccinations. In England, they joined 2,000 others on their way to the U.S. They started April 3, 1906 on the transport Siboney and landed April 29, 1906 at Ellis Island, the port of New York. They were inspected the next day and started by train for Omaha.

The trip from New York to Omaha took nine days. They ran out of food the day before they arrived in Central City. They had worn woolen clothing in Germany and were about roasted before they got to Nebraska. They came to join Mrs. Stubbe's brother, Ed Broers.

Mrs. Stubbe got a job working for Mrs. A.A. Traver doing maid work. She worked for her for forty years. She also worked for Mrs. Hord for many years. Her little house was located where the Junior High Auditorium stands now. She was a neighbor of the Lewis Nugents and Mrs. Lizzy Abel.



Heikedina Stubbe — 90 yrs. old

Mrs. Stubbe was blind for the last ten years of her life and was cared for by her daughter, Mrs. Johanna Piephart. She died July 23, 1955 at the age of ninty-four years and ten months. Her main interests were her family, her garden flowers and sewing quilts. Mrs. Stubbe is buried in the Central City Cemetery. *Submitted by Ethel Ribble*

HENRY & ELLA STUBBE

Henry Stubbe was born March 28, 1890 in Germany and came to Merrick County in May 1906 with his mother, Heikedina Stubbe, three sisters, one brother and a cousin. His first job in Central City was for Fred Dinges. He worked for him one year then worked for Lou Parker for three years. Henry always laughed over the fact that his last job in Germany was shoveling manure and his first job



Harold, Henry, Ella, Laurence, Ethel and Margie Stubbe

for Fred Dinges was shoveling manure. He wondered if he had bettered himself any by coming to the U.S. as every place seemed to have manure to shovel.

Henry enrolled at the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture in 1910 and graduated with the class of 1914. On February 9, 1916 he married Ella Smith at Ithaca, Nebraska. Following their marriage they lived in Omaha and worked for Dr. B.B. Davis and managed Frieslan Farm for four years. They then moved to Central City on a farm three and one half miles east of Central City where they resided until their deaths.

Henry and Ella began developing one of the finest herds of Holstein cattle in Nebraska. Mrs. Stubbe was always helping where ever she was needed on the farm. Harold (their oldest son) graduated from high school in 1935 and was a partner with his parents until his death in 1953.

Henry and Ella had three other children besides Harold. They are Ethel Ribble, Lawrence Stubbe and Margie Fritz. In their last years Henry and Ella were confined to wheelchairs. Henry passed away March 1, 1962, and Ella passed away January 7, 1964. Both are buried in the Central City Cemetery. *Submitted by Ethel Ribble*

ALBERT SUCK FAMILY



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Suck — 1944

Albert John Suck was born September 11, 1884, one year after his family moved to Garrison, Iowa.

His father, John Adam Suck was born October 20, 1840. He moved his family to Iowa from Reichensachen, Germany. John Suck was married to Dorothea Werner, daughter of John George and Catharine Elizabeth (Senter) Werner. Dorothea was born on April 20, 1845 in Germany.

In February, 1890, John Adam Suck filed for a homestead in Rock County, Nebraska. The family lived for a few years near Atkinson, later moving to Brown County.

The family then moved to a farm near Scotia in Greeley County. It was here Dad was living when he took his bride, Martha Marie Wegner. Mamma was born on December 18, 1886. Her parents were Frederick William and Charlotte Wilhemina Bertha (Rudolf) Wegner.

Their first home was near Scotia. Two daughters were born there; Esther, who married Clifford Goerl and lives in Archer and myself, Mildred, who married Cecil Rawlings and lives at Central City. After about three years of marriage they came to Merrick County. A farm in Section. 14 — Township 14 — Range 8 became the "home place".

Other children born to this family were: Dorothy Henrietta, who married Earl Conway. She died November 9, 1977 at St. Paul; Berniece Marjorie, who married Harold Brandes and lives at Central City; Elberta Lucille, who married Wesley Chestnut and lives in California; a son, Milton Dale who married Darlene Jones and lives in Palmer.

In their early youth our parents were united with the Evangelical Church of which they were faithful members. Mamma was a pleasant person who always had a smile and cheerful greeting for those she met. She was a Sunday School teacher and for many years a willing worker for the church and a member of the Women's Missionary Society and felt keenly about spreading God's word. Both were lovers of children and sponsored church youth groups.

Nearly all the newlyweds in the community will remember the "noise maker" which Dad always took to Chivaries. Although Chivaries have long been forgotten, they were the first social event for the new couple. All of their friends would gather at their home and treat them to lots of noise and a few pranks. Then the newlyweds would treat their friends to candy bars and cigars and a good time would be had by all visiting as this was one excuse used to get together for a visit.

John Suck, my grandfather, died January 13, 1922 and his wife died July 30, 1934, both at Archer, Nebraska. Martha (Wegner) Suck, my mother, passed away February 5, 1952 at her home in Palmer. Albert Suck, my father, passed away at a Central City rest home on July 26, 1959. All are buried at the Zion Evangelical Cemetery at Archer. They were good Christian people, taking an active part in the activities of this church for many years. *Submitted by Mildred Suck Rawlings*

ELMER SUCK FAMILY

John Adam Suck came to this country from Germany in May, 1883. He homesteaded in Rock County and was married to Dorothea Werner. They were the parents of Jacob Suck. Later, they moved to Greeley County and then to Merrick County.

Jacob and Helena Wegner, the oldest daughter of William and Bertha Rudolf Wegner, were married April 20, 1898. They were the parents of six children, Martha, Lester, Edward, Viona, Elmer, and Adelbert. They spent their first years in Greeley County, and later in Merrick County on a farm west of Archer. Their occupation was raising cattle and farming.

Jacob Suck died April 29, 1936. His death was caused by a fall from a windmill. Lena Suck, with the help of her family, kept the farm going until her death, September 25, 1945.

I, Elmer, was born on the family farm west of Archer. I received my education at the county school, District #43, also known as the "Stovepoker School", and at Archer High School.

I also took up farming, milking cows, and raising livestock.

In 1938, Hulda Bruns and I were married. She is the youngest daughter of William and Johanna Seim Bruns. She was born in Merrick County, attended school at District #44 and also Worms, Nebraska. She spent her young adulthood working in many community homes caring for newborn babies, working with Dr. J.Y. Racines of Palmer.

We lived on the Ulrich Ita place for about a year, then moved to the old Kennedy Farm, which I had started farming in 1935. This is still our present home. We still do some farming, raising cattle and chickens, but we had to reduce our farming after I lost my leg in a cornpicker in 1965.

We are the parents of two daughters, Merleen and LaVerna.

Merleen is married to Dean Paulsen of Tilden, Nebraska. They have four children, Darla, Bill, Randy, and Kimberly. They now live one fourth mile north of our place on Highway 92, since their home in Archer burned down in February, 1979.

LaVerna is married to Leonard DaMoude of Hordville. They have two children, Kristine and Russell. They live on a farm one and one half miles south of Hordville.

We are active members of the Archer Zion United Methodist Church, having served for many years as treasurer and teaching Sunday School. The girls enjoyed singing for church services.

Both girls took up nursing. Merleen is a nurse's aide and LaVerna is an R.N.

Our niece and nephew, Bobby and Debbie Bruns, from Valentine, Nebraska, spent their summers with us until they went to high school. Bobby came back and spent his senior year with us, graduating from Central City High School.

Hulda's mother made her home with us the last ten years of her life.

Oscar Ita also called this his home for over forty years.

We couldn't have found a better place to live. We enjoy our many friends. It is a wonderful community. We have had some trying times, many happy days, a place of much activity, and never lonesome. God has been good to us. *Compiled by Elmer Suck*

LESTER & LILLIE SUCK

LIFE ON MUSCLE ACHIN' FARM

Let us go down memory lane and reminiscence a bit about some of the pathos and humor that surrounded three people who lived on 'Muscle Achin' farm. Lester and Lillie lived on this farm seven years before the Blessed Event, when Barbara came to join them. After taking one look at her they must have decided "One is Enough" or do you suppose those lean depression years influenced their decision to have a small family?

Muscle Achin Farm is located on section 13-14-8 on Hiway 92 and one half mile south. That one half mile in no way resembles a boulevard, especially after about one inch of snow and a brisk wind. Never many dull moments on the farm. We were a close-knit threesome, each important to the other in work or play. There were always those elements and disasters to deal with such as, drouth, hailstorms, tornadoes, killing frosts, snowstorms, and blizzards, insects, shortages of money, broken-down-machinery, diseases, — we had them all. Come fall there was corn husking, even if it wasn't worth picking.

One time Barbara was to remain at home, so she tried conducting school with her cats. They refused to be entertained and immediately got on top of — underneath of — and into most everything in the house including the pie for dinner.

Being an only child has been definitely overrated especially since you have all your own childhood battles and joys to cope with alone. There is no one with whom to share the joys of a tree-house, the antics of your favorite pet, the secrets and thrill, of a haunted nook or treasure hunt. Then, too, there's no one to share the blame and consequence for tasks



Elmer Suck Family



Lillie, Barbara and Lester Suck

undone; when dishes weren't washed, the garden wasn't weeded, or chores were undone, when mom and dad were out in the field tending crops.

Pets of every type abounded on our farm, which included Mr. Goose, the "King of the Barnyard". He rules his domain with the gusto of a "Super-Chief". The family car was one of his chief targets, which he would meet with hissing, honking, flapping wings and outstretched neck. Now Mr. Goose met his doom when Les drove over his long neck.

Lester always considered himself a 'Dirt Farmer'. He would be found in his fields plowing up, seeding down, planting, fertilizing with, spraying for, and harvesting *IF!* There never seemed to be an end in his faith in God, nature and his fellowmen. Never met a man he didn't like. There's good in every one of God's creatures, was his philosophy. His loves were many, — his family, sunshine, good food, the State Fair, auction, those Saturday nites in town, his shirt collar unbuttoned and above all a good soaking rain in August.

Lillie, that wearer of bluejeans, a faded blouse, and an old discarded coat could always be found right beside him. She'd drive the tractor for planting and cultivating corn, harvesting grain, repairing machinery, feeding the stock, fixing fence and milking those hoards of cows. She never objected too strenuously when a nearly frozen calf or a litter of pigs was brought in by the warm stove. She could get discouraged and blue but her world would become rosy again when Lester called those four magic words, "The Kids are Here". *Submitted by Lillie Suck*

MILTON SUCK FAMILY

Milton Dale Suck, son of Albert John and Martha Marie Wegner Suck, was born on September 3, 1924, near Palmer.

On August 28, 1949, he married Gladys Darlene Jones, daughter of Arthur William and Elizabeth Nelsen Jones. She was born in Hamilton County on January 13, 1929. They moved to Central City in the summer of 1946.

Milton and Darlene lived on the family farm southeast of Palmer until March, 1960, when they moved into Palmer. They operated the Coolidge Rest Home until December, 1974. In 1967, Milton became a rural mail carrier at Palmer and soon after, was transferred to Fullerton. They continued to reside in Palmer.

Milton and Darlene are the parents of three children.

Deborah Ann was born November 3, 1951. On September 1, 1973, she married David Francis Demuth, son of George and Martha Demuth of Staplehurst. They are the parents of two children, Cameron David born on June 28, 1977, and Collin Marshall born on September 1, 1980. They reside in York where Dr. Demuth is a physician in family practice.

Another daughter, Darby Sue, was born January 8, 1955. On October 15, 1977, she married William Dennis Greenway of Palmer, son of Clarence W. and Barbara Greenway. Bill is a mortician, and they reside in Grand Island.

A son, Marshall Milton, was born on October 16, 1962. *Submitted by Milton Suck*

EDWARD T. SULLIVAN FAMILY

Edward T. Sullivan was born in Somerville, New Jersey, on April 4, 1860. After the death of his parents, he lived for a time in South Hampton, Massachusetts, where he studied music at Albany, New York.

In 1881 he moved to Palmer, Nebraska. A year later he moved to a farm near Archer, Nebraska, which he homesteaded. He lived there for sixty years.

On June 7, 1894, he married Mable Lee Bartlett of Archer, Nebraska. There are four Sullivan children: H. Wyndham, Virginia, Edward and J. Bartlett.

Mr. Sullivan was a proficient instrumental player and band leader. He was leader of the first band in Merrick County. He was leader of the Palmer and Archer bands and helped organize the Central City band.

He farmed his own land until the last two years of his life. He was a charter member of the Masonic Lodge, Lone Tree Lodge No. 36 A.F. and A.M. of Central City, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan lived at their farm home until Mr. Sullivan's death in 1942. Mrs. Sullivan then moved to Denver, Colorado, to live with her son, Edward. She passed away March 6, 1952, in Denver, Colorado.

H. Wyndham Sullivan married Mildred Morrison May 5, 1924, Virginia Sullivan married Lisle W. Ferris August 23, 1916, Edward Sullivan married Lena Rankin September 15, 1924, J. Bartlett Sullivan married Elaine Burkman July 17, 1933. *Submitted by Edward Sullivan*

EDWARD T. SULLIVAN JR. FAMILY

Edward T. Sullivan, Jr. and I, Lena G. Rankin, both of Archer, Nebraska, were married September 15, 1924, in Fort Morgan, Colorado, at the home of my grandparents, C.R. Manifold. We lived fifteen years on the farm home where Edward was born.

Edward farmed and also had a fix-it shop. We have one daughter, Janet Virginia, born September 12, 1931. We moved to Denver, in 1941, where Edward worked as a welder during World War Two at the Merrill Wheel and Axle shop. He stayed with Merrill Wheel and Axle as assistant manager until 1962, when he was transferred as manager of the Merrill Truck Shop. He worked there until the spring of 1968, when he retired. In September of 1968, we moved back to Archer, Nebraska, buying the W.P. Hansen property there.

We still own the old home of E.T. Sullivan, Sr., which is located two miles north and one mile east of Archer, Nebraska. Eighty acres of this was homesteaded by his father.

Our daughter, Janet Virginia, married Delmar M. Brase of Beatrice, Nebraska, December 25, 1949, in Denver, Colorado. They moved to California after World War II and now reside in Belmont, California. They have four boys: Randy, Tom, James and Gary.

We celebrated our fifty-sixth wedding anniversary September 15, 1980. *Submitted by Lena Sullivan*

RICHARD & MARY SVITAK

Mary Belle Watkins was born to Robert Lawrance and Nita Bernice Rawlings Watkins May 25, 1938 at their home near Archer, Nebraska. Later they moved near Central City where she started her schooling in District #8 then they moved and attended District #12 and graduated from the Central City High School in 1956. She attended Kearney State Teachers College two years and taught Kindergarten and music in the Marquette schools two years, and later the grade school music in Central City. She also taught piano and organ lessons several years. She married Richard Herman Svitak June 14, 1959 in the Friends Church in Central City where she was a member. She became a member of the Eastern Star in 1959, was Worthy Matron in 1972 and 1978, was assistant Grand Warder in 1972, Grand Representative of Oklahoma in Nebraska in 1980 and 81 and a member of Haamah Temple Daughter of the Nile.

Richard was born November 13, 1935 to Stanley



Richard Svitak Family — 1971

and Dorothy Ruge Svitak. He graduated from the Central City High School in 1954. He served two years in the army. He was a carpenter by trade and had helped his father with carpentry work many years before he was on his own. He was also employed in the post office. He built their own home when they were married and built their second home later when they needed more room. He has been a volunteer fireman since 1967 and assistant fire chief the last six years. He was Master of the Masonic Lodge in 1974, 32nd degree Scottish Rite and York Rite Mason, a member of Tehama Temple Shrine, Worthy Patron of Eastern Star in 1972 and was assistant Grand Sentinal in 1972. He is a member of the American Legion Post #6 and a member of the Firing Squad and very active in the Junior Fire Patrol.

Mary Belle taught Sunday School, Nursery school, and Bible school in the Friends Church eleven years. She also worked with Brownies and Boy Scouts and a leader in 4H several years while the children were involved. Both she and Richard were active in all social activities.

They have five children, Richard Lawrance born January 24, 1960. He graduated from the Central City High School in 1979 and attended Hastings Tech and is presently employed as a mechanic in Hastings. While in high school he took part in the band and different vocal groups.

He married Diane Kissell October 30, 1980. They have one son, Justin Dewaine born February 22, 1981.

Kent Alan was born March 14, 1961. He attended Central City High School and took an active part in band and vocal music. He is working in Grand Island.

Michael Stanley was born February 2, 1963 and graduated from the Central City High School in 1981. He took part in band and vocal music in high school. He sang with the chorus and Nominis Expers. He is enrolled in Hastings Tech for school in August.

Vicki Lynn was born May 19, 1966, attended the Central City High School and will enter the tenth grade this fall. She has been active in band and vocal music. She was a Brownie, in 4-H and is a member of the Jobs Daughters Bethel #7.

Karen Diane was born January 8, 1968 and is ready for the seventh grade this fall. She was a Brownie, in 4-H and has been in band this past year and is a member of the Jobs Daughters Bethel #7. *Submitted by Mrs. Nita Watkins*

ARTHUR & HAZEL SWEDENBURG

Arthur Swedenburg was born on the family farm south of Clarks, in Polk County, on January 14, 1892. His parents were Olof and Emma Anderson Swedenburg. They were born in Sweden, and each came to the United States at an early age. Arthur's father and grandfather were two of the early pioneers in the area. His father homesteaded the farm in 1877. Arthur was born in a dugout in the side of the hill below the present farmstead. There were five in the family when the two-story frame house was built, and they moved into it in 1894. He attended Polk County District #60 school, as did his sons and grandchildren later.

Arthur married Hazel Rodine in 1912. She was the daughter of Oscar and Emma Johnson Rodine.



Art and Hazel Swedenburg — 1971

Her parents also were born in Sweden. Arthur and Hazel lived on the home farm with his parents for a while after they were married. They moved to the Swede Home area, and back to the home place in 1920 when Arthur's parents moved to Polk. The couple lived on this farm until they retired in 1958 and moved to Clarks. Arthur served on the District 60 school board for twenty-eight years, and they housed the teacher of the school at different times. Art and Hazel were members of the Swede Plain Methodist Church north of Polk until their move to Clarks. They joined the Clarks Methodist Church at that time.

The Swedenburgs had two sons. Wesley was born on the home place and Fred was adopted in 1925. They also attended District #60.

Arthur and Hazel celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary in 1962. A reception was held at the Methodist Church in Clarks. Art took the job as night watchman in Clarks in 1962, and continued until 1971. They always had a large garden and flower beds, and enjoyed their lawn work. In 1972, they celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary at the home of Ralph and Marjorie Swedenburg, their grandson and wife, who now own the home place. The couple had many friends and relatives on hand to celebrate the event.

Hazel passed away October 15, 1974, at the age of eighty-one. Their son, Wesley, passed away January 26, 1975, at the age of sixty-two. Arthur maintained his home until 1976 when he moved to the Bethesda Care Center in Central City. His daughter-in-law, Mrs. Wesley Swedenburg, purchased his home in Clarks at that time. Art recently celebrated his eighty-ninth birthday in Central City.

The family of this longtime Clarks couple include one son, Fred, and his wife Idona; daughter-in-law, Evelyn Swedenburg; six grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. *By Craig Swedenburg*

RALPH & MARJORIE SWEDENBURG



Ralph and Marjorie Swedenburg

Ralph Wesley Swedenburg, the son of Wesley and Evelyn Swedenburg, was born September 20, 1933, on a farm in rural Polk County. He attended rural school and was graduated from Clarks High School in 1952.

He married Marjorie Ann Hanquist on May 13, 1956. She is the daughter of Harold and Anna Hanquist of Hordville. Marjorie was born June 5, 1938, on a farm in Hamilton County, and attended rural school and graduated from Hordville High School in 1955. They farmed near Swede Home until Ralph was inducted into the U.S. Army in September, 1956. He took his basic training in Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, and was a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In November, 1956, Marjorie joined him, and they lived in Fayetteville, North Carolina. They also spent a few months in the spring of 1957 at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina. Their son, Craig, was born April 7, 1958, at Fayetteville, North Carolina. Ralph was discharged from the army in June, 1958. The couple continued farming near Swede Home until they moved to the Art Swedenburg farm in September, 1958.

Their daughter, Pam, was born October 21, 1960, at Central City. Craig graduated from Clarks High School in 1976, and the Grand Island School of Business in 1977. He is currently employed as the assistant vice president of the Bank of Clarks, and serves as treasurer of the East Central Nebraska Bank Administration Institute. Pam graduated from Clarks High School in 1979, and is a student at the Lincoln School of Commerce in Lincoln. Marjorie is a secretary for the Clarks Telephone Company and Central Cable Corporation in Clarks. Ralph is currently serving as president of the Farmers Cooperative Association board of directors.

The Swedenburg family is active in the Methodist Church at Clarks. Marjorie served as superintendent of the Sunday school, and Craig is currently treasurer of the church, and organist.

The farm place which Ralph and Marjorie bought from Arthur and Hazel Swedenburg in 1972 was homesteaded by Ralph's great-grandfather in 1877. This farm has served as the home place of the Swedenburg family for 104 years. Five generations of this family have lived in the same house. *By Marjorie Swedenburg*

WESLEY & EVELYN SWEDENBURG

Wesley Swedenburg was born in 1912, the son of Arthur and Hazel Swedenburg. Wes attended Polk County District #60 school, and graduated from High Prairie School, also in Polk County.

On April 6, 1932, he married Evelyn Swanson, daughter of Otto and Lydia Johnson Swanson of the Swede Home area west of Stromsburg. They were married in the Swede Home Lutheran Church parsonage. Wes and Evelyn lived with his parents for a time when they were first married. He farmed with his father for many years. Ralph, their first son, was born at his grandparents' home on September 20, 1933. He was the third-generation son to be born on the home farm. They lived on a farm north of his parents when their daughter, Rosa Lee, was born on May 8, 1936. Gayle, their third child, was born April 18, 1939, when they were living on Prairie Island in Merrick County. While their children were growing, they lived on the Moberg farm east of his parents' farm. The children attended District #60 school. Wes and Evelyn lived in Clarks for about five years before moving to Stromsburg in 1960. While they lived in Clarks, Wes worked for the Merrick County ASCS. He was later employed by Overland Sand and Gravel, and worked there after moving to Stromsburg. His failing health forced his early retirement. Wes was in poor health for about fifteen years before his death on January 26, 1975. Evelyn then moved to Clarks in 1975, and continues to reside there.

Ralph married Marjorie Hanquist of Hordville in 1956. They are the parents of two children, Craig and Pam. They live on the home place near Clarks. Rosa Lee married Richard Mustard of Clarks and they live near Littleton, Colorado. They have four children, Mitch, who is married, Trudy, Mark and Rick. Gayle married Shirley Brockman of Clarks.



Evelyn and Wesley Swedenburg — 1932

They now live in Louisville, Colorado. Their children are Mike, Chris, and Brian.

Evelyn is an active member of the Congregational Church in Clarks. She is a member of the choir at the church. Evelyn is also a member of the Women's Fellowship at the church. She is a charter member of the Busy Bee Club, having helped organize the club in 1936. *Submitted by Evelyn Swedenburg*

ALFRED G. SWEET FAMILY

My father, Alfred George Sweet, was born in Nauvoo, Illinois on March 4, 1859. When he was very young, his parents died and he was raised by an aunt and uncle, Colonel Frank Sweet who served in the Civil War. The family came to Nebraska to claim a piece of government land north and east of Clarks.

My mother, Sarah Sharman, was born in Norwich, England, on January 3, 1876. When she was thirteen, her family came to the United States and settled first near Seward, Nebraska, and later moved to a farm northeast of Clarks.

The Sharman and Sweet families were close neighbors, and Alfred and Sarah were married on October 16, 1895, in Central City, Nebraska. They bought 160 acres of land two miles north of Clarks in 1897, and several years later purchased eighty acres south of the farm from George Beardsley.

Ten children were born to the family, two of whom died in early childhood.



Alfred and Sarah Sweet

I, Ethel, was the eighth child born to the family. Ellen, my oldest sister, was my first teacher in a rural school, District #62, east of our home. I recall we drove a horse and buggy to school, starting early to make preparations for the day, which included carrying in coal to start the fire in cold weather. I have many pleasant memories of my first year of school, such as watching older children drown out gophers; eating cold lunches outside on the grass or around the stove in winter; Christmas programs; and ball games.

My father died in 1921, when four children were still very young. My mother, with much hard work, but with the cooperation of all the children, was able to keep the farm in operation.

Our farm was transferred to the Clarks School District during my second year of school, so I then attended there and graduated from high school in 1931.

After my mother's death in 1942, my brother, Joe, purchased the farm from the other family members. Joe, who never married, and I, who have remained single, lived on the home place.

I have spent my life in the teaching profession, first in rural schools, then in elementary schools of Clarks, Fremont, Central City, and the last twenty-three years in Lincoln.

After Joe's death in 1960, my brother Alfred, and his son, Jack, have farmed the home place. They and I have kept the family home in good repair.

Since retirement from teaching, I am enjoying church work, which includes singing in the choir, and working with the Women's Fellowship; flower gardening; visiting with family and friends. All sports are of great interest. I enjoy attending the Nebraska football games.

I am proud to be a member of this pioneer family which has grown to number 113 members.

At present, the five living members of the original family are: Ellen Sloan, Wisner, Nebraska; George Sweet, Clarks, Nebraska; Alice Hirschbach, South Sioux City, Nebraska; Ethel Sweet, Clarks, Nebraska; Alfred Sweet, Clarks, Nebraska. *Submitted by Ethel Sweet*

FRANK D. SWEET FAMILY

My husband, Frank D. Sweet, was born and lived all his life two and one-half miles north of Clarks in Merrick County. He was the oldest son of Alfred and Sarah Sweet. They had a family of five girls and five boys.

Frank quit school when he was in the eighth grade to help with the farm work. At the age of seventeen, he rented the George Beardsly farm one-half mile west of the home place. After his father's death, he helped with the care of both places.

I (Veda) was born near Guide Rock, Nebraska in Nuckolls County, the youngest of the two daughters of Jesse and Belle (Zeigler) Pritts. I graduated from Guide Rock High School in 1920, then taught school in District #90 Nuckolls County for three years. The next two years, I attended Kearney State Normal and graduated from the two year course in 1925. I accepted the position of fifth grade teacher in the St. Edward School for the 1925 and '26 term. It was in St. Edward that I met Florence Sweet, (Frank's sister), who was a teacher there also. She introduced me to Frank and we started dating.

At the end of the school term May 22, 1926, Frank and I were married at the Baptist Church in Central City. We lived on the rented place for seventeen years. Here our two daughters were born — Marilyn Belle, August 24, 1928 and Miriam Joy, January 2, 1940. In the summer of 1943, we purchased the Zal Peck farm of 240 acres, located one-half mile west of the rented home, and moved there in November, 1943.

Marilyn graduated from Clarks in 1946, after which she worked as a telephone operator in Grand Island for one and a half years.

Miriam attended grade school at Pleasant Hill, District #15, attended high school in Clarks and graduated in 1958. She worked as a nurses' aid at St. Francis Hospital and later at the Litzenberg Hospital in Central City.

Marilyn married Bill Dexter in 1948. They bought a farm two and one-half miles south of our home. Their six children are Renae, Ronda, Randy, Robin, Ryan, and Royce.



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sweet

Miriam was married to Gerald Truesdell in 1960. They have two daughters, Kimberly Ann and Angela Dawn. They lived in Central City until 1971.

We had a very happy and prosperous farm life with its ups and downs. Frank worked early and late with his field work, and always had a lot of livestock to care for. In the later years, we put our farm in the C.A.P. program for ten years. Frank now spent his time feeding lambs and pigs until his health started to fail. On March 20, 1971, Frank passed away at the Aurora Memorial Hospital of cancer.

Miriam and her husband, Jerry, moved out to live on the home farm, and I purchased a Geer Mobile Home and moved it onto the place, where I still live. I now have four married grandchildren and four in high school. There are eight great-grandchildren, including twin boys, the latest addition to the family. *Submitted by Veda M. Sweet*

GERALD SWELEY FAMILY

Adam and Carrie Kieborz, grandparents of Gerald Dean Sweley, homesteaded in Buffalo County near Litchfield, Nebraska. His father, Roy Sweley, farmed there until his death in 1973. A brother is still farming at Litchfield, but not on the home place.

Joseph and Elizabeth Burnett, grandparents of Emma J. Rowedder Sweley, on her mother's side, homesteaded in Custer County near Broken Bow, Nebraska. A cousin is currently farming the homestead there.

Gerald Dean Sweley and Emma J. Rowedder were married June 20, 1964. (Gerald was born June 4, 1945 — Emma was born December 4, 1944). Three boys came from this union, Todd Allen born December 5, 1966, Mark Allen born October 12, 1970, David Allen born in 1977, February 11. All three were given the same middle name, which we found to be a Biblical tradition, so families were set aside by the same middle name. In 1973 we and our two oldest sons moved to Merrick County. Gerald obtained land where we now live, and built a house and has established a hog operation. He also raises cattle, as well as working full-time for New Holland, a division of Sperry Rand, in Grand Island, Nebraska as a welder. *Submitted by Emma Sweley*



Gerald Sweley Family — Gerald, Mark, Emma, David, Todd

E. WALTER THEDE FAMILY

Ernest Walter Thede was born at St. Libory, northeast of Worms, on September 1, 1903, and spent his entire life on the farm, first at home and then after his marriage on a farm three miles south of Palmer, until July 1978, when we moved into Palmer after the marriage of our son, Russell.

His parents were Henry Thede, who was in the army in Germany, and came to America, and Susanna Marie Miller, daughter of the John Millers of the Worms area, northeast of Worms. He was born on the home place, six miles south and one half east of Palmer, and was of a family of six children, attending school in Zion Parochial at Worms: Viola Busch (Mrs. Walter) of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Harry, of St. Libory, lives on the home place, Emma Meyer (Mrs. John) of Palmer, died July, 1942, John of Palmer, died September, 1952, August of St. Libory, died January, 1963, Walter of Palmer, died June, 1980.

Henry died, November, 1934, and Susanna died January, 1963.

Walter was married to Merna Rudolf, daughter of Wm. A. Rudolf, in March, 1926. She died in April, 1940. They had no children. They resided on the farm three miles south of Palmer. In August, 1941, he married, May Christensen, daughter of Martin and Georgia Christensen of Palmer, Nance County. We have five children:



Mr. and Mrs. Walter Thede

Karon June Killion (Mrs. Howard), born June 21, 1941, of Shenandoah, Iowa. They own an interior decorating store, and have two daughters, Cindy and Terri.

Dennis Walter, St. Libory, born January 9, 1943, farms and has a real estate sales license, is married to Vir Jeanne Zmek, of Dannebrog, daughter of Lewis and Dolores Zmek. They have two daughters, Monica and Michelle. He served in National Guard two years.

Dean Gail, St. Paul, born May 23, 1944, farms and manages Cording Cattle Company. He married Janet Cording, a nurse, daughter of Louis and Elizabeth Cording, and they spent two years as Mission Workers along the Amazon in Brazil after his two years in the army, part of it in Viet Nam. They have two sons, Michael and Philip, and a daughter, Jennifer.

Marcia Claire Christensen (Mrs. Jim) of Central City, born October 13, 1946, is an LPN employed at Bethesda Care Center in Central City. They have two children, Vickie and Gale.

Russell Kevin of Palmer, born February 19, 1956, lives on the home place and is in the hog farrowing business. He married Jean Marie Whalen of Greeley, daughter of Louis and Eileen Whalen, and they have one son, Justin.

All of both our lives were spent on the farm, until 1978, when we moved into Palmer. I graduated from Palmer High in 1938, and all of our children attended Palmer School, after attending rural Districts #41 and #45 until they were closed.

There are many remembrances of drought years, grasshoppers, war years etc; including getting electricity to the farm. What a blessing! *Submitted by May L. Thede*

OLGA NIEDFELT TILLMAN

Olga Lena Niedfelt Tillman was born on August 3, 1898, to Diedrick J. and Ella Scherzberg Niedfelt at Grand Island. She was married to Charles Tillman, Sr. on September 6, 1916. He was the son of Henry and Charlotte Eckhardt Tillman, born May 7, 1897, at Lincoln.

Olga and Charles Tillman lived in Grand Island for a number of years. Olga passed away on April 2, 1948 and is buried in the Grand Island City Cemetery. Charles later married Lila Randolph Nelson. Charles served several terms as the Hall County Assessor, from which office he retired.

Olga and Charles Tillman had two sons. Charles A. Tillman, Jr. was married to Eva Sawyer and later married Margy Hetrick Widga. Arthur Tillman married Gertrude Safranek. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl (Karen) Niedfelt*

DANIEL TOBIAS

Daniel Tobias, was born in 1825. April 1, 1858, he married Margaret Parsons in Dayton, Ohio. No date of her birth has been verified but was believed to be around 1831. Five children were born to this couple, Clara, Elmer, David Dempsey, Mary Ellen, and Lillian.

Margaret died in September of 1876, and was buried near Greenfield, Iowa. She was a member of the United Brethren Church in Greenfield. They made their home at Clinton, Iowa. At the time of Margaret's death, the youngest daughter, Lillian, was adopted by Postmaster William Huntington of Calamus, Iowa. Daniel Tobias later married Matilda Morgan Daniels.

Matilda was born ca. 1844, in Utica, N.Y., daughter of Samuel and Ann Morgan. Matilda married James Daniels (born in Utica, N.Y., ca. 1844), January 1, 1868, at Belle Plains, Iowa; later moving to Calamus, Iowa, and from there to Davenport, Iowa. James served four years in the Civil War, in Co. A., 1st Penn. Light Artillery. In December, 1875, James was drowned on the way up the Mississippi River, while on a hunting trip with a companion. He was buried at Rock Island, Illinois, before Matilda was notified of his death.

Matilda Morgan Daniels married Daniel Tobias, August 8, 1878, in Clinton County, Iowa. The following spring the family came to Stromsburg, Nebraska; where they lived for two years. They then moved to a farm in Merrick County, where they lived for a year before finally settling in Clarks, Nebraska, until the time of the death of Daniel Tobias on January 11, 1903. *Submitted by Mrs. Dave Morgan*

The 1900 Merrick County, Nebraska Census (Clarksville Township) lists: Tobias, Daniel, born Nov., 1825, in Ohio, father born in Pennsylvania, mother born in Pennsylvania; Matilda, wife, born Mch., 1846, in New York, father born in England, mother born in England; Bevorly?, son, born Oct., 1880, in Nebraska; Garfield, son, born Jan., 1883, in Nebraska; Chester, son, born Feb., 1887, in Nebraska. Earl Key recalled that his mother, Mrs. Fred (Mary Ellen "Ella" Tobias) Key, was of Pennsylvania Dutch extraction. A marker in Pierce Chapel Cemetery, northwest of Clarks, Nebraska, is inscribed: DANIEL TOBIAS, SEPT 25 1825, JAN 11 1903; JAG TOBIAS, JAN 16 1882, OCT 2 1910. A small headmarker is inscribed — J GARFIELD, and another — FATHER. Garfield Tobias was killed, apparently when struck by a train, at Clarks, October 2, 1910. An article in the "Central City Republican" comments that, "Tobias was employed by Klar Betts a few miles northeast of Clarks . . . and bore a good name in the community". The "Central City Nonpariel" also carried a story, which says, "Tobias was about twenty seven years of age and has been working about town and on farms this summer. He has other relatives in Clarks and has resided there for a number of years". Mrs. Dave Morgan mentions the names Willard, Alvy and Chester, and goes on to say that, "I don't know what happened to Matilda Daniels Tobias — where she died or was buried". *Compiled and Written by Thomas E. Kelly*



David D. Tobias Stone — Clarks Cemetery

DAVID DEMPSEY TOBIAS

David Dempsey Tobias, son of Daniel Tobias, and first wife, Margaret Parsons, was born May 8, 1869, in Clinton, Iowa. His obituary, which appeared in the "Clarks Enterprise", notes that:

"When he was five years old his mother passed away leaving a family of five children: Clara, Elmer, David, Ellen and Lillian. At the age of eight years he came with the family to Nebraska, settling in Polk County, where they lived for seventeen years. They then moved to the Clarks community where (Dave) has remained the rest of his life with the exception of two years when he lived in Buffalo County."

On September 13, 1898, David Dempsey Tobias married Ruth Key, at the home of Frederick and Mary Ellen (Tobias) Key. David Tobias and Mary Ellen (Tobias) Key, were brother and sister; Frederick Key and Ruth (Key) Tobias; were brother and sister. Ruth Key, daughter of Richard and Rebecca (Carter) Key, was born in Quarrington, sub division of Sleaford, County of Lincoln, England, December 12, 1878. Ruth came to America with her parents, and brothers: Frederick, Walter and Herbert, in about 1882. The family settled on a farm east of Clarks, Nebraska.

Dave ran a livery stable and later farmed, and he and Ruth lived in Clarks, where their five children were born: Margaret, born in 1899, never married; David Ellsworth Tobias (Morgan), born February 21, 1901; Gladys (Mrs. Charles Laudenberger), born May, 1902; and twins, Myrtle (Mrs. Earl Brown) and Russell, born February 11, 1904. The following notice appeared in the "Central City Nonpariel", February 18, 1904:

Mrs. Dave Tobias, who gave birth to twins, a boy and girl, last Thursday, never regained consciousness quite, and on Saturday she passed away. Funeral was held Monday under the charge of the Odd Fellows. Rev. Mrs. Perkins preaching. It is the saddest thing that has ever happened here. The dear little mother leaves three other little ones, besides the twins and the oldest not five years old. The entire town are doing all they can for the bereaved little ones and the heart broken husband. Mrs. Purdy is taking care of one of the twins and Mrs. T.L. Dixon the other. Mrs. Alf Brown has one of the older little ones."

Russell was adopted by the Watts family. Dave went to live with Thomas and Katherine Morgan, on the Morgan Homestead, until he married Doloris Hansen, December 24, 1924.

On November, 6, 1907, the father, David Dempsey Tobias, married Florence Lane. Two children were born to this union: Velva (Mrs. Gene Byrd), and Orville. Dave's obituary says that, "he united with the Methodist Church in Clarks, June, 1926, and has been an Odd fellow a good many years." Dave died at his home, west of Clarks, July 22, 1938; burial was in the Clarks Cemetery. Four of his children are still living: Dave Morgan, Gladys Laudenberger, Myrtle Brown, and Velva Byrd. *Submitted by Mrs. Dave Morgan and Thomas E. Kelly*

ROLLER TOOLEY FAMILY

Roller Tooley came to Central City in 1879 at the age of seventeen. His parents had come from England in 1850. They located in Williamsburg, Pennsylvania where four sons, Joe, Frank, Alfred, and Roller were born. They later moved to Martinsburg, West Virginia. After their father, Joseph Rilett Tooley died, Alfred, Roller and their mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Tooley, joined Joe and Frank who had previously come to Central City. Roller farmed for a few years on Prairie Island. In 1886, he started working for Dr. J.B. Whittaker in the drug business and continued there for fourteen years. In 1901 he bought the Stitzer Drug, and for years the firm, R. TOOLEY DRUG, was a familiar name in the business life of the community. He was active in the Chamber of Commerce, and received a plaque honoring him for fifty years in business. Roller



Tooley Drug Store before 1920

served Central City as mayor. He was interested in agriculture and was among the first in Merrick County to have pump irrigation on his farm three miles west of town.

In 1895, Roller married Anna Jane Smith, who, with her parents John William Smith and Mary Jane Rains Smith, had come from England in 1876. Roller and Anna had four children, Marian, Cecil, Alice, and Roller Lynn. Marian married Dr. Bruce L. Ross. Their children are Robert Bruce and Joyce. Alice married Everett Clay Crites, and they have one son, Robert Clay. Cecil married Abbie Ashelford who died in 1936. Their two daughters are Barbara and Janet. In 1938, Cecil married Harriet Dunlap. Cecil worked in the Farmers National Bank for fifty years, serving as president for twenty five years. He died December 29, 1974. Roller Lynn, the youngest in the family, was a registered pharmacist but he went into the banking business. He married Mayme Kyes and they had one daughter, Lynn. He was employed by the Farmers National Bank at the time of his death March 17, 1941, at the age of twenty-nine.

Roller Tooley died August 23, 1944, and his wife Anna died on September 3, 1950. *Submitted by Harriet D. Tooley*

TORPIN-STANLEY

I. Vera Vivian Stanley (1893-1965) — Henry Keith Torpin (1892-1980)

Vera Stanley and Keith Torpin were married on May 26, 1915 at her parents' home in Clarks. (W.L. Stanleys). The two had met while attending Nebraska Wesleyan University at Lincoln, Keith coming from Oakdale, Nebraska.

Vera and Keith made their home on a ranch near Elgin, Nebraska, for a few years, then in Oakdale, Nebraska, where Mr. Torpin operated the grain elevator.

In 1941, the couple moved to Mitchell, South Dakota.

Their family of boys were: Richard Stanley (1916), Kenneth Paul (1922), Hollister (1923-1980), Quentin (1926).

The first three sons were in service in World War II. Hollister remained in U.S. Navy service, Quentin, after high school graduation from Mitchell, South Dakota, was employed by the Milwaukee Railroad; now is an assistant general manager of the Santa Fe Railroad, Los Angeles, California.

Kenneth lived and worked in Central City employed by James Clark, in the grocery business, and was very interested in and contributed much to community service. He now owns his own store "Ken's Rodeo Market' in O'Neill, Nebraska.

Stanley is an attorney in Central City.

Both Vera Stanley Torpin and Keith Torpin are buried in the Oakdale, Nebraska cemetery.

II. Cecil Willard Stanley — Jane Armstrong

Cecil Stanley married Jane Armstrong, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Armstrong, who farmed west of Clarks.

The two graduated from Clarks High School, were well known as young people in the community.

The couple resided, after their marriage, near Big Springs, Nebraska; operated a wheat farm there; raised a family of five children; namely: John Loren, Leah, Patricia, Welton and Barry.

The Stanleys moved to near Nampa, Idaho in 1946. Both are buried in a rural community church cemetery near Nampa. *Submitted by Stanley Torpin*

R. STANLEY & EFFIE TORPIN

Richard Stanley Torpin has lived in Central City since 1932, graduating from high school in 1934; graduating from Nebraska Central College; also from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1940; was Merrick County Attorney for thirty years; served that long in County Fair Association offices, mostly as secretary; was in service to his country in World War II for three and one-half years, with fifteen months in Manila, Philippine Islands, in charge of an Information and Education depot; served his home city as Chamber of Commerce secretary several times; was employed at the Nonpareil newspaper office; was with Atty. Patrick Heaton in his law office for a while; in 1962 joined Charles Phares as partner in a law firm, located on north main street (Highway 30), now a part of an extended law firm with the additional names of Richard Vanderheiden and Clifford Mesner.

In 1940 he married Effie Therese Holmes of Hordville. She also attended Nebraska Central College, and the University of Nebraska for a summer course. She taught eight years in Merrick County: two at Hord Home Ranch School a mile east of town; two years at Chapman, grades seven and eight and High School vocal music; four years the second grade in the local South Ward. Mrs. Torpin was a teacher of piano for many years, and spent much time in piano accompaniment for her high school (Hordville); for Nebraska Central College; for local and church affairs; for high school pupils in Central City.

Their children are:

1. Louise Anne Torpin, residing in Lincoln, working in the Motor Vehicles Department in the State office.

2. Patrice Elaine Keller, now an accountant after graduating from Nebraska Wesleyan, and employed in the office of Immanuel Hospital, Omaha. Her husband, formerly of Seward, whom she met at college, is an architect with the firm of Henningson, Durham and Richardson.

3. Richard Stanley Torpin II, now in Soil Conservation Service, located at Alma, Nebraska, married to the former Susan Furrer of Lincoln, both graduates of the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture.

The Torpins are active United Methodists (Stanley comes from several generations of Methodists on both sides of the family).

Both Stanley and Effie have been involved with church and community concerns. *Submitted by Stanley and Effie Torpin*

FLOYD & MARIE TRACY

Floyd Henry Tracy was born October 18, 1885 in the Lockwood area of Merrick County. His father, William Henry Tracy, son of Evander and Almeda Tracy of Champion, Ohio, came to Nebraska after mustering out of the Union Army following the Civil War, and farmed in Merrick County. Floyd attended Lockwood School. He farmed with his father, and later worked for Paul Frauen. There he met Marie Frauen, niece of Paul and Clause Frauen. Marie had come from St. Margarethen, Schleswig, Holstein, Germany in 1906 to be the housekeeper for her uncle, Clause Frauen. Marie and Floyd were married March 18, 1909, and farmed in the Lockwood area.

A son, Roy Frank Tracy, was born there on December 19, 1910. Later, the family moved to Vieregg Township to farm. Marie was presented a Gold Medal during World War I for her Victory Garden. She was known for her vegetable and flower gardens and Buff Orphington chickens. A son, Henry Albert Tracy was born August 12, 1918. They bought the Egger's farm in 1918, and maintained this as the family place until their retirement in 1946. A daughter, Fern Ellen Tracy, was born January 3, 1925. The children attended District #42 South for their education through the eighth grade. Floyd was a Charter member of Mulberry Grove Farmer's Union Local 1401 and was very active in the Farmers Union Store of Chapman, Elevator, Creamery, and other Farmers Union activities in the area. Floyd bought his first John Deere tractor in the 30's for farming and irrigation purposes.

Roy, an expert machinist with Western Land Roller Company, Hastings, Nebraska, when the Selective Service System was put into effect, volunteered. He completed his one year of service and then worked for Baldwin Locomotive Works, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. When Pearl Harbor was bombed, he was recalled immediately and reported to Fort Dix, New Jersey. He was sent to Australia and then to New Guinea. He was in the South Pacific for the duration and returned stateside in November, 1945.

Henry also volunteered and was in service when Pearl Harbor was hit. He was sent to England with a B-17 Crew as a navigator, and was killed December 16, 1943, when returning from a bombing mission over North Germany. He is buried in the United States Military Cemetery, St. Margarten, Holland.



Marie and Floyd Tracy — Wedding March 18, 1909

Fern worked at the Cornhusker Ordnance Plant and then enlisted in the Coast Guard and served in the Naval Headquarters, Norfolk, Virginia. Roy married Ann Zuelke of Palmer, and they have farmed the Tracy home place. Roy is a very successful farmer, and was named Master Farmer of Merrick County in 1958. They have one son, Eddy, who is serving in the United States Air Force.

Fern married Edmond J. Burke and lives in Texas. They have two children, a daughter, Celia Marie Burke Huebner, and a son, Edmond J. Burke.

Upon retirement, Floyd and Marie Tracy lived in Chapman and were very active in the community. Floyd passed away February 13, 1971, and Marie passed away February 18, 1973. Both are buried in the Chapman Cemetery. Roy Tracy died January 1981. *Submitted by Fern Tracy Burke and Roy Tracy*

ARTHUR TRAIL FAMILY

Robert A. Trail and his wife Sarah Anne, left their home in London, England in 1869, and after a short time on the east coast, they eventually settled in Merrimac, Wisconsin. A son, Albert, and daughter, Clara, came with them. Three sons, William Trail, Henry Trail and Arthur Rodney Trail were born in Merrimac. Mother Sarah died when Arthur was a small boy, and his sister Clara, raised the family of boys.

Arthur migrated to Nebraska in 1892 and worked



Arthur and Nettie Trail

in the grain business in Silver Creek. He soon met Nettie Ann Adams, who lived on a homestead farm five miles north of Clarks. They were married on February 12, 1897. They lived briefly in Silver Creek, and in 1903, they bought a farm four miles north and one-half west of Clarks. To this union, Vileta Addean Trail (Lumadue) was born in '98. She now lives in Eckley, Colorado. William Ross Trail was born in 1900, and now lives in Englewood, Colorado. Pansy Emaline, who died at the age of two years, and Merle Elroy Trail, born in 1911, and now lives in California.

The Art Trails retired from their farm in 1926, and built their new home one-half block east of the Clarks Methodist Church. Prior to the depression in the early '30's, Art and Nettie spent their winters in Florida. Dad passed away in '52, and Mother in '66. While living in Clarks, my folks were most interested and active in the Methodist Church, the Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star.

Some of my most vivid memories include the 1918 "flu" epidemic. My mother was fortunate to be immune to it, and she spent many months helping in the homes of families where one or more were very ill. Also, when Art purchased the quarter section across the road north of them in 1910, it was still all virgin grazing land. The first year he farmed it, I recall my dad showing me his collection of flint arrowheads that he had found scattered over the area that had been used by the Pawnee Indians while hunting there. Also the tornado that went through that area in the fall of 1921. Mother and I had never seen anything like it. It fortunately missed our home as it passed by west of us, but I still have a vivid mental picture of every stem of the "fox-tail" grass on the stubble field west of our home, standing erect towards the sky — due to the suction of the passing storm. The tornado destroyed most of the buildings on the Fred Philbrook's and Claude Dexter's farms. My dad, Fred Philbrook and Claude Dexter were all up in Holt County, hunting prairie chickens.

While living on the farm, I always looked forward to the "ice cream" socials held in the basement of Pierce Chapel. I walked one and one half miles each way every day to the eight grades country school — and recall that once there was a sleet storm severe enough that it made it possible for me to "ice skate" to school.

My wife, the former Vaughn Weinbrandt from Miller, and I retired in 1972. I have many fond memories of that period of time from 1932 to '41 which I spent coaching football in Bladen, St. Edwards, and Central City. We moved to Los Angeles in 1942, and were within hiking distance of the Rose Bowl and the Rose Parade, and I enjoyed taking my son Terry and his friends on hikes over those hills. Our grandchildren love to hear stories about their great-grandparents who were pioneers in Merrick County, Nebraska. *Submitted by Merle E. Trail*

TRAVER FAMILY

Isaac B. Traver, age fifty-five, and wife, Abby Ann, age fifty-one came to Nebraska from New York State in May 1868 and settled in this area. They had three children, Isaac V., William and Grace. Their New York friends, Mr. and Mrs. L.B. May, and daughter, Grace, came to visit them and liked Central City so they made this their home too. Mr. Traver and May owned a lumber yard in 1872. Mr. Traver built the large home that is now our Historical Museum on E. Street. Mr. Traver was one of the men that signed a petition that our village become Central City.

Isaac Traver, Jr. married the Mays' daughter, Grace, and lived in with the Travers. Years later Isaac died and Grace was married to Sam McCullough.

William Traver married Mary Hogue. They had two sons, Merton, who died at age 2 and William Jr., born in 1894. He attended Central City Schools and graduated in 1912. He enlisted in World War I and after service moved to Denver, Colorado where he later passed away. The Travers lived in the lovely home on North 17th Avenue, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Jensen. Mr. Traver was a salesman for U.S. Supply Company, Omaha, Nebraska.



Will and Mary Traver, Son William

His wife, Mary, was Central City Librarian a few years and filled the Office as Postmistress for a short period of time. She was very active in many organizations till her death in 1945. Mr. Traver passed away in 1937.

The Travers owned the building where Besteds Store is now. They rented the building to Bishop & Withrow Hardware in 1887. Mr. I.B. Traver died in 1904 and his wife in 1930. Alma Barrows was housekeeper for the Traver family for many years. The Traver family were very active and well respected citizens in our community. *Written from information supplied by Florence Free*

DR. JOHN M. TRIPLETT

Dr. and Mrs. John M. Triplett were married March 12, 1890. They resided in Iowa until 1903 then moving to Chicago, Illinois, and later to Battle Creek, Michigan where the doctor took his prepatory course in medicine and at the same time Mrs. Triplett took a course in nursing and dietetics. Later Doctor Triplett moved to Lincoln where he completed his medical course, locating in Chapman, January 29, 1910.

In between 1910 and 1940 they lived in Grand Island seven years where the doctor was head physician at the Soldiers Home. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in Chapman in 1940.

Their three children, now deceased, were Harold, Duncan, and Alma. They also provided a home and education for their two grandchildren, Jimmie Triplett and Betty Graber.

Dr. Triplett was a horse and buggy doctor and traveled many miles and bad roads in the rural areas delivering babies and tending the sick. He was also known far and wide for successfully treating and saving many lives during the 1918 flu epidemic. Mrs. Triplett is also remembered for her skillful nursing of the sick and many other acts of kindness.



Dr. and Mrs. John M. Triplett

Their daughter Alma, chose nursing as her career and assisted her parents when they maintained a nursing home in Grand Island. Alma married Harry Mack and when they retired and moved to Chapman, Alma worked with her father on private nursing cases. Dr. and Mrs. Triplett took a great interest in their community, being active in the churches, schools and social affairs. They made an unforgettable contribution to Chapman and the surrounding community.

BERTHOLD & EMILIE TROH

Berthold and Emilie Troh came to Central City in 1887. Berthold was born January 3, 1845 at Posen, Germany. He was orphaned as a child and at fourteen years of age, he was apprenticed to a local blacksmith. He worked as a mechanic and blacksmith through his active years.

Emilie Koenig was born December 22, 1854 at Arnhausen, Germany. Emilie Koenig and Berthold Troh were married December 22, 1874 at Stettin, Germany.

The Trohs came to America in 1881. Galveston, Texas was their first location. The prevalence of malaria and general homesickness created a desire to return to Germany. After a year in their homeland, they came back to America arriving in Kansas City, Missouri in 1882.



Berthold Troh

In 1887 Trohs came to Central City where Berthold was employed on a construction crew to help lay the Burlington railroad from Central City to Palmer. He later opened a blacksmith shop in Central City and was active here until 1920.

Berthold and Emilie Troh had a family of three children. Helena and Robert were born in Germany. Clara Troh was born April 9, 1892 in Central City. She died in 1948. Helena Troh married John C. Reeves on April 27, 1898. Robert and Clara were not married.

As was the usual pattern of German families, they were very frugal and conservative in their life styles. The goal of ownership of their home and other modest real estate properties furnished some feeling of accomplishment.

They were members of the German Evangelical Church, Knights and Ladies of Security, and the Modern Brotherhood of America were lodges which they attended.

Berthold Troh died August 2, 1922 and Emilie Troh on November 15, 1932. They are buried in the Central City Cemetery. *Submitted by Ted Reeves*

GERALD TRUESDELL FAMILY

Jerry and I were both born and raised in the Clarks area. Our paths didn't cross until high school, as I attended Pleasant Hill and Jerry attended Clarks and for awhile District #27, near Central City. We started dating during my sophomore year and Jerry's junior.

When Jerry graduated in 1957, he enlisted and served two years in the Army, stationed at Fort Carson, Fort Chaffee, and for eighteen months in Germany. After my graduation in 1958, I worked as a nurses' aide at St. Francis Hospital in Grand



Gerald Truesdell Family

Island, and later in the new Litzenberg Memorial in Central City when it opened.

We were married on January 16, 1960, at the Methodist Church in Clarks. Our first year was especially hectic, as our house became a gathering place for all our unmarried friends as well as family and married couples. We had many good times, though, and our lives were very fulfilled.

We bought our first home out near the old Nebraska Central College, which at that time was being developed into a Christian high school, Nebraska Christian. We made many new friends in this neighborhood, which we have continued to enjoy through the years.

On August 8, 1961, we lost our baby son. He lived only a few minutes. We named him Tony Dean. Needless to say, this was a very difficult time for us. At this time, we joined Grace Lutheran Church and still enjoy our membership there. We moved to a farm east of Central City that belonged to Jerry's uncle. Jerry was working at the Veterinary Clinic, and I was working at Billesbachs Jewelry Store.

Our prayers were answered on February 20, 1963, when our first daughter, Kimberly Ann, was born. Two years later on March 14, 1965, we were blessed with another daughter, Angela Dawn. We were so very thankful to have two healthy children.

At this time, we bought an acreage on the southeast edge of Central City. Jerry's grandparents, the Robert Everetts, had owned this place at one time. Jerry was working for Lepp & Larsen John Deere, and also feeding sheep and pigs. We had good neighbors and also enjoyed watching the new Senior High School being built across the road.

My father, Frank Sweet, passed away on March 23, 1971. In August of that year, we moved to the farm to be near my mother and help her with the place. She moved into a mobile home in the front yard. Kim, a third grader, and Angie, first grade, now attended Pleasant Hill. This was quite a new experience for them which proved to be very good. They had good teachers, and enjoyed their school years very much.

As I write this, February of 1981, Jerry is back to his first love, farming near Central City. Kim will graduate this spring and has been accepted at Midland Lutheran College in Fremont where she'll study nursing. Angie is a sophomore, and is still undecided what she will do after graduation. I am very contented and keep real busy being a wife and mother. *Submitted by Miriam (Sweet) Truesdell*

RONALD & PAMELA TURNER

My second home is still Nebraska, even though I have lived in Kansas since the fall of 1967. Born July 26, 1949, and named Pamela Adele, I am the eldest child of Elton and Betty Scheer of St. Libory, Nebraska.

My earliest recollections seem to be of going to school at the District #28 one-room school which was across the section from my parent's farm. My kindergarten teacher was Mrs. Johns and there were four other students in my grade. Of the other students, grades 1-8, I only remember lots of bigger people. We practiced improving our coordination by skipping to the outhouse, singing some ditty about "going to the candy store". I believe I was in first or second grade when they built a more modern two-room school house in the section north of its original site.

As a fifth grader, my parents transferred my schooling to Zion Lutheran in Worms. At the time I remember crying about my mean parents because I not only had to change schools, I had to change piano teachers and Sunday school teachers at the same time.

In 1963 I began attending the Central City High School as a green freshman who'd only attended country schools before. The next four years include memories of studying, band trips, vocal music practices and productions, being a student librarian, the Junior and Senior class plays and more studying. I graduated in 1967.

During the fall of 1967, I moved to a dorm at St. John's College, Winfield, Kansas and began my sojourn as a Kansan. I attended St. John's for two years and graduated as a Parish Worker. It was while I was a 'Johnnie' that I met my husband Ron Turner.

By mutual consent, Ron and I decided that I owed it to myself and my parents to be independent and work as a Parish Worker. In 1969, I moved to Leavenworth, Kansas, to work at the Trinity Lutheran Church. I directed choir, played organ, taught nursery school, taught religion classes and did secretarial work in between.

On June 6, 1970, I became Mrs. Ronald Turner. My husband is a commercial and industrial insulator. Various jobs and circumstances dictated that we make moves to Salina, El Dorado, until finally in 1973 we bought our present home in Augusta, Kansas, twelve miles east of Wichita, Kansas. Our eldest child, Melissa, was born in 1972. Our first son, Christopher, was born in 1974, and our second son, Cory, was born in 1978.

My husband is happiest when he has a car to work on. Several years ago we bought a 1935 Chevy from Delbert Rembolt of St. Libory. We towed the car for 300 miles to bring it home to Kansas.

Cars are not the only things that have travelled interstate. My brother, Stan, bought a boat in Augusta and transported it home. Recently, Dad has been calling to ask us to bring rocks (shale) for his nativity scenes. My dad, a farmer, travelled 300 miles to ride a hayrack and look for rocks! *Submitted by Pam Turner*

WILL TURNBY FAMILY

In March, 1912, Will Turnby, his wife, Sadie, and four children, Harvey (deceased), Faye (Mrs. Sam Wyman, Silver Creek, Nebraska), Violette (Mrs. George Blattman, Sun City, Arizona), and Madeline (Mrs. Erwin Rembolt, Denver, Colorado) moved from Formoso (Jewel County), Kansas to reside on a farm northwest of Central City. The farm was owned by Mrs. Turnby's aunt, Mrs. Belle Harris Cox.

A move like this was not easy back in 1912. Although the distance was only one hundred miles, there were no efficient moving vans to move household furnishings nor were there tractor-trailer transports to carry the livestock.

The move was made by railroad box-car. The furniture was placed in the front half of the car, the livestock was tied in the remaining space. Will and son Harvey, not quite fifteen years of age, rode the freight train for the arduous trip north. Albeit Formoso is straight south of Central City, the rail route was much more roundabout. The only way they could be routed was east to Lincoln and back. It took them well into a week to arrive at the Burlington depot just east of Mrs. Harris Cox's home. The deep snow and bitter cold made it difficult to move the livestock and their possessions to their new home.



Turnby Family — 1921

Mrs. Turnby and daughters traveled by passenger train and their trip required only two days. Such luxury — such convenience in those modern days.

The winters were severe and the summer heat unrelenting. The ominous clouds were always a threat to crops standing in the fields. Farming was done solely by "horse-power" and dry land farming was the method used. Farmers were completely at the mercy of the elements.

For grocery money Mrs. Turnby delivered fresh butter and eggs to the "city ladies" each Saturday, fresh butter that had been cooled by pure, cold well water; I know because I had to "pump the pump".

The Turnby children were educated in the rural and city school systems. Thanks to the Nebraska Central College, Faye was graduated from the Academy and Violette and Madeline received their college degrees. All three girls followed a teaching career. Faye terminated her teaching when she was married to Sam Wyman of Silver Creek, Nebraska. Violette and Madeline married and eventually moved to Denver where they both continued teaching until their retirement.

Mr. and Mrs. Turnby farmed until retirement. They lived on the same section north of the college making only one move — to the "north eighty".

After Will retired from the farm, he will be remembered for his fine horses used in doing highway road work for the State of Nebraska.

Mrs. Turnby will be remembered for her pioneer work in cosmetology. It is my belief that she gave the first permanent waves in the Central City area. She operated from her home on the college section.

These fine pioneers have long since departed. But we who are left behind thank God for our splendid heritage. We will be eternally grateful to our parents and friends for the privilege of living in Merrick County during our growth and development into maturity. *Written by, Madeline Turnby Rembolt*

EVERETTE & CORA TURNEY



Everette and Cora Turney

Everette Zalman Turney, son of Sylvester Turney and Kitty Barr Turney, was born March 28, 1865 at Adrian, Illinois. As a young man, Everette and his father came west and purchased a ranch south of Kearney. They were importers of Belgian horses and made five trips overseas to acquire stock. In those days it took eighteen days aboard ship to cross the ocean to Europe.

Everette went back to Carthage, Illinois and married his childhood sweetheart, Cora Isabelle Bellew. Cora was born December 21, 1869 at Adrian, Illinois. When they came back to Nebraska, they brought with them Cora's half sister, Lillian, who grew up in their home.

In 1898, they moved from Kearney to Wood River. While building their new house, Cora was expecting her first child. Everette told her it would

be best for her to go to her mother's as there was too much work to do. Their first and only child, Beulah Marie, was born May 20, 1899 at Albany, Missouri while visiting Cora's sister. Everette did not see his daughter until she was seven months old.

In 1904, they bought the Duncan farm, south of Chapman, Nebraska, where Beulah grew up. She attended school in Chapman and graduated from Central City High School. She was baptized in the Christian faith, and became a member of the Chapman Baptist Church. The baptism occurred on May 14, 1916 in the Platte River. It was necessary to break the ice to perform the rites.

Beulah was married to Leslie Solt on October 20, 1920.

Everette and Cora lived on the farm near Chapman until they retired and moved to Central City. Everette passed away April 5, 1945. Cora died on December 12, 1950. Both are interred in the Central City Cemetery. *Submitted by Viola Johnston*

FLOYD TYLER FAMILY

Floyd, son of William Jerry and Mary O'Nele Tyler, was born near Chapman, Nebraska, and grew up in the Chapman-Central City area. In 1923 he married Ethel Rathman, and they made their first home on the Anson Holmes farm, southeast of Chapman. They lived here for twenty-two years. Floyd and Ethel have two daughters; Ruth (Mrs. Kenneth Hodtwalker) and Marjorie (Mrs. Harold Lockenvitz), both living in Grand Island.

In 1935, Floyd put down one of the first irrigation wells in that locality. It was put in mainly with hand labor and the old "sand bucket" method. Ed Seims helped him engineer this project. In 1940, Floyd took irrigation rights on the Platte River for farm irrigation purposes.

For some years Floyd sold hail insurance, and also conducted a cedar tree business during the spring months. He and his crew dug small cedar trees from around the Platte River and sold them to nurseries and private individuals for replanting.

In the early '40's, Floyd decided to try something different, so he planted two acres of popcorn, hoping for commercial sales. The first year they cleaned and processed this corn entirely by hand and sold it to the Donald Company in Grand Island. This venture proved fairly successful, so the following year he increased his production to ten acres, and started to revamp and design some of his old machinery to make cleaning and packaging easier. Bekin's Company from Los Angeles, California, contacted Floyd and bought all the corn he had produced, and sent their representative to pay for the commodity in "cold cash" which he carried in his brief case.

From that time on, Floyd started contracting acreages of popcorn with other interested growers, eventually leading to a several state area, and thus the "Tyler Popcorn Company" was born. As the business boomed, Floyd and Ethel bought the Randall farm southeast of Chapman and erected processing buildings and storage facilities. Eventually, their operation included 480 acres of well-developed farmland, and "Tyler's Popcorn" made its way into many corners of the world — including Disneyland, Japan, and Mexico. At present the business is being operated by a grandson, Jim Hodtwalker.

In 1945 Floyd and Ethel moved into Grand Island to make their home, and still reside there. They have belonged to the Eagles for over fifty years and are now lifetime members. They also belong to the Liederkrantz Society in Grand Island. *Submitted by Viola Beck*

LESLIE L. TYLER FAMILY

Leslie Lloyd Tyler was born on a farm near Chapman, Nebraska, son of William J. and Mary O'Nele Tyler. When about eleven years old, the family moved to their own farm south of Paddock Siding, west of Central City. Leslie received his education in the country school near them. He loved to play baseball,-and for many years was an active player on the "Irishtown" team, then managed by Frank Clark.

He chose to become a farmer, and in 1919 married Jessie May Hanks, daughter of Cornelius and Nettie Hanks of Hay Springs, Nebraska. Jessie was a rural school teacher for three terms before her marriage.

Les and Jessie lived on his father's farm, south of Paddock siding, the first six years, where a daughter Viola Marie, and son, Donald Wayne were born. In 1926 they purchased their first farm, the P.C. Nielsen land on Prairie Island, east of Central City, and moved there.

Two more sons, Paul Lloyd and Joseph Leslie, were born here. Viola, Wayne, and Paul received their grade school education at the rural school District #22. In later years, the rural school was consolidated into Hordville where Joseph attended all twelve years. Viola and Wayne are also graduates of Hordville High School, while Paul graduated from Central City Schools.

Soon after moving to Prairie Island, Les and his neighbors worked on a road crew helping to build a road across the channels of the South Platte river, connecting Prairie Island with Hamilton County, forming a direct route to Hordville.

In the first years of marriage, the family was affiliated with the Chapman Baptist Church and, after moving to Prairie Island, they attended the Hordville Baptist church. Jessie was very active in the Ladies' Society and girls' youth groups.

Les was an avid outdoor sportsman, with hunting and fishing high on his list of priorities. One of his first projects after obtaining his own farm was the planting of a large orchard. He and Jessie were skillful gardeners, and for years they supplied fruit and vegetables to a large surrounding area. One of Les' pet projects was his watermelon patch. He was never as happy as when watching a choice melon being consumed by a group of children.

Les and Jessie found special joy in the family, and their roots were deep in their rural environment. They were always conservationists, and Les was one of the pioneers in farm irrigation. His first irrigation project was accomplished by digging a sand pit. He did the major part of this with a team and a slip scraper and hand shovel. He later had Jule Wilder help finish pumping the sand out. This sand pit not only provided much needed irrigation for crops, but Les also kept it well stocked with game fish for the pleasure of his family and many friends. Also, since this was well before the era of swimming pools, one end of this pit was maintained with shallow water to allow safe swimming facilities for his family and their friends.

This first irrigation-recreational project was started during the "terrible 30's" and financed basically by sale of fruit and vegetables from their farm. This produce was made possible by irrigation from the stock windmill. With the coming of better years, he and Jessie were able to acquire more land and expanded their operation to include about 700 acres of well-developed land.

Before the days of electricity and refrigerators, Les and a couple of his close neighbors would hand-saw huge blocks of ice from the river or a nearby sandpit and haul it by team and wagon to be carefully packed in a cement block "ice house", where it was well covered with fresh straw or sawdust to await the heat of summer. It was then used to cool the family "icebox", and for homemade ice cream on Sundays.

Les was a great believer in tree planting, and for many years he and his sons dug and sold cedar trees in the spring of the year. They provided trees to nurseries and private individuals over a several-state area.

Leslie was a charter member of the REA Board, and it was indeed his pride and joy for years. He volunteered many long hours toward getting electricity into the rural homes, and served two full terms as President of the Board. Failing health eventually forced him to retire. He also served as a committeeman and commodity loan inspector for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration for many years.

Leslie and Jessie celebrated their golden wedding in 1969 with all children and grandchildren present. Leslie passed away in November, 1974, and Jessie in November, 1979. Their children still live in the home area: Viola (Mrs. Harold Beck) near Clarks, Wayne and his wife near Polk, and Paul and Joe and their families reside on Prairie Island, east of Central City. *Submitted by Viola Beck*

VAUGHN & RUTH TYLER

Vaughn Tyler was the son of William J. and Mary O'Nele Tyler. Born April 6, 1910 on a farm near Chapman, Nebraska. Later he moved with his parents to a farm near Central City. He attended school in District #38 Merrick County. He was a farmer. The Tyler family lived near the Platte river where Vaughn enjoyed hunting, fishing and all the wildlife along the river. He helped his father with the digging and sale of cedar trees grown on the Islands in the Platte river, they also cut the large cedar trees for posts and sold them.

Vaughn and Ruth Fauquier, daughter of Thomas and Belle Bruno Fauquier, were married April 22, 1934, Ruth was born February 8, 1910 on a farm northwest of Chapman, Nebraska. She attended District #28 school and graduated from the Central City High School in 1927. They made their home on a farm near Central City for twenty years. They have two daughters, Janet, born October 13, 1938, Rebecca (Becky), born February 11, 1941. Both girls attended District #8, rural school, graduated from the Central City High School, also attended Kearney State College and taught school in Merrick County for a number of years. Both girls taught in District #28 Merrick County where their Great Grandfather (Henry Bruno) had been the first teacher after the school was organized in 1873. Janet married Ronald Andersen on December 17, 1961. They are the parents of two sons, Allen and Dale. They reside on a farm near Marquette, Nebraska. Rebecca married David Hajny on April 8, 1967. They are the parents of four sons Brian, Mark, Jeffrey and Jason. They reside on a farm near Clay Center, Nebraska. Becky is a teacher in the Clay Center school.

In 1954 we moved to Central City where we still reside. Ruth was employed in the Assessor's office in the courthouse for twenty-five years and was County Assessor for fifteen years. Retiring from that office in 1978, she was elected to the Board of Supervisors for a term of four years. This year, 1981, she is serving as chairman of the Board. She is active in the Order of the Eastern Star, and is a Charter member of the District 8 Homemakers Extension Club.

Vaughn was employed with F & W Precast Company and is now retired and enjoys working in the yard and growing beautiful flowers. *Submitted by Ruth Tyler*

WAYNE TYLER FAMILY

Donald Wayne Tyler, the second child and eldest son of Leslie and Jessie Hanks Tyler, was born on a farm southwest of Central City on November 9, 1921. In 1926 he moved with his parents and sister, Viola, to a farm on Prairie Island. He completed eight grades at Merrick County District #22, and was graduated from Hordville High School in 1938, before attending Nebraska University Agricultural College for two years.

On July 3, 1942 Wayne and Lucile McElwain



Wayne and Lucile Tyler

were married at Broomfield, Colorado. Lucile is the daughter of Percy and Marie McElwain. She was born on June 19, 1922 on a farm north of Central City and lived in the Fairview Community until 1937 when she moved with her parents and three sisters to a ranch near Denver. She completed a two year course at Colorado State College and was granted a teaching certificate in 1942. The same year Mr. Tyler joined the Army Air Corps and was awarded his wings and commission. Lieutenant Tyler served as a B-24 bomber pilot with the 5th Bomb Group of the 13th Air Force in the South Pacific in 1944-45. After his return he was assigned to the Ferry Command until his release from active duty in March of 1946. He was subsequently promoted to the rank of Captain in the United States Army Reserve.

In the spring of 1947 Wayne, Lucile and baby daughter, Kathy, moved to their recently purchased farm on Prairie Island. Danny was born in 1949 and Brian in 1954. Wayne continued to expand his grain and livestock operations. Beginning in 1955 he also worked as an engineer for his brother-in-law, Harold Beck, in a land levelling operation.

Mrs. Tyler taught school in Colorado for two years during World War II and beginning again in 1959 she taught in the Central City and Polk schools for 12 consecutive years. In 1966 she received her Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Kearney State College.

In 1962 the family moved to a newly purchased farm in northeast Hamilton County. Wayne continued his farming operations on Prairie Island and in northern Hamilton County until 1977. At the present time he manages the 700 acre holdings that have become the D.W. Tyler Farms Incorporated.

Kathy, a graduate of Nebraska University, now lives in Rapid City with her husband, Dr. Richard Trotter, and their three daughters. She is Director of Camps and Conferences of the United Methodist Church in South Dakota.

Danny, a helicopter pilot and Vietnam veteran, is a graduate of Sydney Law School and a member of the Australian Bar. He lives in Sydney with his Australian born wife, Vicki, and their three children.

Brian was graduated from Westminster College in Salt Lake City in 1976. He and his wife, Sharon, reside in Pasadena, California, where he is flying for United Air Lines as a 2nd Officer.

Wayne is an elder in the United Presbyterian Church in Central City. Besides church activities his interests include flying, fishing and hunting; while Lucile is interested in history and genealogy. Together they enjoy travelling, photography and dancing. *Submitted by Wayne and Lucile Tyler*

WILLIAM J. TYLER FAMILY

William Jerry, oftentimes referred to as "Will" or "Bill" by his friends and family, was the son of Jeremiah and Sophia Wright Tyler. He left his home in Shenandoah, Iowa, at age 13 and came to Chapman, Nebraska. He rode to Chapman on a freight train, and during the trip suffered a fall which resulted in a hip injury. Later, tuberculosis of the bone developed and left him with a decided limp for the rest of his life.

He made his home with the Bill Bice family at Chapman for quite some time, and in later years of his youth he worked for the W. Shoemaker family. He married Mary O'Nele, daughter of Jim and Anna O'Nele, who had migrated to Merrick County from Champagne, Illinois in 1866.

Mary was a country schoolteacher before her marriage. She told the story about school board members coming to her when she was only 16 years old and asking her to take the Teacher's Exam, so she could teach the local school. The current teacher had been forced to resign because of discipline problems with the older children in the school. Mary took the required exams on a Saturday, and was given permission to start teaching on Monday. She successfully completed the term.

When first married, Will and Mary lived on the Frimann farm one-half mile west of Chapman for a time, where three sons, Leslie, Lawrence, and Earl were born. They later moved to the John Donovan farm, where two more sons, Floyd and Vaughn, were born.

In 1910 they bought a farm from Fred Zlomke, just south of Paddock Siding, and moved there. In 1917 they moved onto the Otto Zlomke farm, located on the river road south of Paddock. This farm was the site of the old grist mill. Also, the pantry of this old farm home was originally the Lone Tree postoffice.

The sons of the family spent their winter months working cedar posts and firewood in the Platte River islands. The family also cut and stored their own supply of ice for summer use. The ice was sawed by hand, into large blocks which were loaded onto wagons and hauled by horses to the "ice house", which was a cement block structure. The ice was then packed in layers and well covered with fresh, clean straw or sawdust. It would then keep well into the summer and was used to cool the family "ice boxes", and for the big treat — homemade ice cream, made in a hand-cranked freezer.

In the early spring, the family dug and sold small cedar trees for replanting.

William farmed until failing health forced his retirement, and they again moved onto their own farm where he lived until his death in 1939. Mary then moved into Central City, where she lived until her death several years later. *Submitted by Viola Beck*

ALLAN URKOSKI FAMILY

Thinking this would be an opportune time to write of my family, it's not so much history now, but give us a few years. I'm speaking of our family, the Allan Urkoskis. My maiden name is Patti Luanne Sealey and I'm originally from Polk County, Nebraska. I completed my education at the Polk Public Schools, graduating in 1969.

On April 4, 1970, I married Allan Lenard Urkoski at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Krakow, near Genoa, Nebraska. To this union four children were born: Jill Ann on May 11, 1971; Kraig Allan on April 7, 1974; Keith Andrew on November 25, 1975; and Kevin Richard on February 27, 1977.

From March 1, 1972, until March 15, 1978, we lived on the former Ed Arney place two miles east of Clarks, then owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Ficken of Marshall, Oklahoma. The Fickens moved to this farm when we left in March of 1978.

In January of 1978, we moved a house in from the Phil Severance place near the Pierce Chapel area. We moved this house onto Allan's parents' land seven miles north of Clarks. We completely remodeled this home and hope to do further remodeling in the future.

Allan farms his parents' land, eighty acres that we own and some other rented ground and is greatly into hog-raising! Allan has always had a desire to farm, even with all its ups and downs! Jean Brown greatly influenced and encouraged Allan in this endeavor.

I'm a housewife and mother, and let me tell you, with four active children, that's a full time job! But I love its busi-ness and our children are what life's all about — seeing them grow on the farm.

We're very active in our church, the St. Peter's Catholic Church in Clarks. Our children go to catechism here, I play the organ for church and Allan is a lector for the worship services. Church is a very important part of our lives.

I am of mostly Swedish-German descendants. I was born at the Stromsburg Hospital at Stromsburg, Nebraska on August 20, 1951. My parents are Richard Sealey, Jr. and Joyce (Cramer) Sealey of Polk. I have two brothers and one sister; Dennis Gene of Seattle, Washington; Dick LaVern III of Polk, Nebraska; and Peggy Lorraine (Mrs. Brad Rahe) of DeWitt, Nebraska.

Allan is of Polish descent and was born at Columbus, Nebraska on February 4, 1950. His parents are Andrew P. and Barbara (Zoucha) Urkoski of Clarks. There are five children in his family: Shirley (Mrs. Don Sock) of Norfolk, Nebraska; Ronald of Silver Creek; Eugene of Clarks; Allan of Clarks; and Evelyn (Mrs. Wayne Wondercheck) of Fullerton, Nebraska.

This is just a brief history of our family. I hope that someday our children can look back at this story and think of what a happy and fulfilling life we had. *Submitted by Pat Urkoski*



Allan Urkoski Family

ANDREW URKOSKI FAMILY

Andrew P. Urkoski and Barbara (Zoucha) Urkoski were married on January 5, 1937 at Omaha, Nebraska.

Before they were married, Andrew lived with his brother, John, on a farm south of Monroe, Nebraska. After they were married, they moved onto their presently-owned farm six miles north and one mile east of Clarks.

Barbara's maiden name was Zoucha. She is a descendant of Mr. Charles Zoucha and Pauline (Barnes) Zoucha. Barbara was born and raised near Tarnov, Nebraska. After her schooling, she worked in Columbus, Nebraska, Chicago, Illinois, and Omaha, Nebraska, where she lived until her marriage to Andrew. Barbara's brothers and sisters are: Mrs. Florian (Belle) Placzek of Columbus, Nebraska; Joseph Zoucha (deceased); Louis Zoucha of Omaha, Nebraska; Mrs. Joe (Mary) Zoucha of Omaha, Nebraska; Mrs. Joe (Anne) Urkoski of Columbus, Nebraska; Mrs. Tony (Celia) Lassek of Omaha, Nebraska; Floyd Zoucha of Omaha, Nebraska; and Dick Zoucha of California. She also had two sisters, Josephine and Theresa, who died when they were quite small.

Andrew's parents were Mr. Peter Urkoski Sr., and Frances (Dush) Urkoski of Clarks-Silver Creek area. Andrew was born on December 23, 1906, and raised north of Clarks on the family homeplace. His brothers and sisters are: John of Clarks, Nebraska; Mrs. Ed (Clara) Dembowski of Silver Creek, Nebraska; Mrs. Dewayne (Mary) Fox of Denver, Colorado; Mrs. Ed (Elsie) Cutsor of Duncan; Edward of Genoa, Nebraska; Peter, Jr. (deceased); Mrs. Felix (Kathreen) Cuba of Genoa; and Lonnie of Silver Creek, Nebraska.

The children of Andrew and Barbara Urkoski are: Mrs. Don (Shirley) Sock of Norfolk, Nebraska; Ronald of Silver Creek, Nebraska; Eugene of Clarks, Nebraska; Allan of Clarks, Nebraska; and Mrs. Wayne (Evelyn) Wondercheck of Fullerton, Nebraska. *Submitted by Pat Urkoski*

PETER URKOSKI SR.

Peter Urkoski, Sr. came to America from Poland around 1900. He first travelled to Genoa, Nebraska, where he worked for a few years before coming to settle in the Clarks area in 1902.

Peter married Frances Dush of Duncan, Nebraska, on November 2, 1902. Their nine children were: John (November 20, 1903), Clara (January 20, 1905), Andrew and Mary (December 23, 1906), Elsie (April 12, 1910), Edward (July 31, 1912), Peter, Jr. (November 6, 1914), Catherine (January 11, 1917), and Lonnie (February 19, 1919).

The Urkoski home place, located approximately six miles straight north of Clarks, is home to the Lonnie Urkoski family.

Clara married Edmund Dembowski of Chicago

April 22, 1933. They lived in Chicago until 1974, retired and moved to Silver Creek. They have Eddie, Jr., Chicago, Illinois, and Delores, Springfield, Virginia. Edmund passed away October 27, 1978.

Andrew married Barbara Zoucha from Omaha on January 5, 1937. They live on their farm six miles north and one mile east of Clarks. They have five children: Shirley (Don) Sock, Norfolk; Ronald (Jeanette Dubas), Silver Creek; Eugene (Phyllis Tworek), Clarks; Allan (Pat Sealey), Clarks; and Evelyn (Wayne) Wondercheck of Fullerton.

Edward married Anna Czarnick of Genoa April 12, 1937. Their children are: MaryAnn (Ray) Boryca, Fullerton; Richard (Maxine Tworek), North Bend; Bernard (Carol Zelazny), Millard; Chester (Jean Bosak), Genoa; and Robert.

Mary married Dewayne Fox on August 16, 1939. They moved to Colorado and have three sons: Robert of Colorado, Clifford of Denver, and Jerome of California.

Peter, Jr., married Berniece Czarnick of Genoa May 6, 1941, and lived on a farm north and east of Clarks. Peter died May 30, 1980. They had six children: Florence (Lou) Dubas, Fullerton; Kathleen (Jerry) Zelazny, North Bend; Angeline (Tom) Lesiak, Clarks; Donald (Sue Zywiec), Silver Creek; Karen (Ted, Jr.) Chlopek, Fullerton; and Christine (Charles) Starostka, Silver Creek.

Lonnie married Frances Czarnick of Genoa February 18, 1946. They reside on the Urkoski Home Place north of Clarks. Their children are: Lonnie, Jr., Columbus; Phyllis (Bud) Cunningham, Columbus; Gary (Kay McBride), Columbus; Marcia, Columbus; and Mark, Clarks.

Catherine married Felix Cuba of Genoa. They have two sons: Gerald of California and James of Columbus, Nebraska.

Elsie married Ed Cutter of Duncan.

Frances (Dush) Urkoski passed away December 4, 1946, and Peter Urkoski, Sr., passed away on September 19, 1968. *Submitted by Pat Urkoski*

ELZA & FAIRY URY

Back in 1908 when Chapman's main street had no sidewalks and very few stores, Elza and Fairy Dell Ury moved to town with their family of two from Broken Bow, where they had spent six months. Before that time, Mr. Ury clerked at the Tooley Drug Store in Central City from 1904 to 1908 with the exception of the last six months at Broken Bow. Mr. Ury took over management of the drug business for Dr. Earl Farnsworth until the Spring of 1909. In March, he purchased the business and the old frame building became the Ury Drug Store. Then in 1917 the frame building was moved over to make room for a brick structure. The town built board walks and business prospered. Mr. Ury bought out the Fred Fogg grocery business in 1940 and combined the drug store with groceries across the street. He operated his store for a total of forty-seven years.

Our mother was kept busy canning for the winter, sewing for all of us during those early years, dressing the wild game, and processing meat. Apples were stored in our cave for winter along with bags of potatoes. A great deal of time was spent preserving food for the cold winter. Coal was bought by the ton to heat our homes, soft coal for the range and hard coal for the "base burners".

Our grandmother from Council Bluffs, Iowa, visited us often and always arrived by train. We had to go only three blocks to the depot to meet her. At that time, we could go everywhere easily by train.

Father was active in the community, having been Postmaster for fifteen years, Board of Education member for seven years, and serving for twenty eight years with the Telephone Association. Both parents were charter members of Laura Mae Chapter, O.E.S. and Elza belonged to the Masonic Lodge. Fairy Dell was the last of the charter members when she died in 1975. Elza had preceded her in death nineteen years prior in 1956.

When they first moved to Chapman, Fay Bernice was five years old and Edward Arthur was one year old. Four more would be born to them — Mary Ann, Della Mae, Robert Elza, and Daniel Kidd. During the 1940 war years, two of the sons, Bob and Dan, joined Elza in the store. In December of that year, Dan enlisted in the service and in 1941 Bob followed. Mr. Ury carried on the business alone until they returned in 1945.

All six children were educated in Chapman and later moved away. The eldest, Fay (Mrs. Lloyd) Johnson lives in Portland, Oregon; Edward in Walden, Colorado; Mary Ann (Mrs. Frank) Westendorf in Morrison, Illinois; Della Mae (Mrs. Raymond) Miller in Valley, Nebraska; and Dan in Fountain, Colorado. Bob, who died in 1977, lived in North Platte, Nebraska. The six children produced sixteen grandchildren and thirty seven great-great grandchildren.

Thank God for our good days in Merrick County! *Submitted by Della Mae Ury Miller*

THE VANSICKEL FAMILY

Henry Vansickel and his wife Tabitha (Carroll) Vansickel came to Nebraska and settled either in Merrick County or nearby sometime before 1883. In 1900 they were living on a farm in Lone Tree Township. P.O. Central City.

Henry was born in Coshocton County, Ohio 11 October, 1847 the sixth child of Henry and Mary (Dewitt) Vansickel. It is thought that he was a descendant of Ferdinandus VanSicklin, who migrated from the Netherlands in 1652 to Long Island, New York and married Eva Antonis Jansen.

Tabitha was also born in Coshocton County Ohio 2 December 1847 the second child of John Carroll and Jane (Richardson) Carroll whose ancestors were early settlers in Virginia and Ohio.

Henry and Tabitha were married in 1870 at Coshocton and soon after began migrating West by covered wagon. They had stopped for a time at South Bend, Indiana, migrating again to Illinois and later to Nebraska where they settled. Tabitha died in August, 1902 and is buried in Burke Cemetery at Central City. Henry died November, 1929 at Kirkland, Washington. He and a son John are also buried in the Burke Cemetery.

They had six children as follows:

Ella born 1871 in South Bend, Indiana, married Charles Crandell and they had eleven children.

John who died at the age of 23 years.

Clide W. born 1877 at Springfield, Illinois, Married Maggie Viola Fullerton, daughter of David and Emma Fullerton in 1904 at Central City, Nebraska. They had eight children.

Charles, born 1883 in Nebraska and later moved to Montevideo, Minnesota. Married and had one son, Ronald.

William A. (Chub) born February, 1886 in Nebraska, married Nellie Marie Manning born in Nebraska, daughter of Frank Manning. They had two children. Roy was killed in a forest fire in Montana. Sadie Arnold lives at Glidden, Iowa.

Kathlene, born 1887 in Nebraska, married Edward Daniels in 1906. They lived in Montevideo, Minnesota and later moved to Kirkland, Washington where they celebrated their fiftieth Anniversary in 1956. They had one son, Clifford. *Submitted by LCDR Harold C. Vansickel USNR/Ret.*

CLIDE VANSICKEL FAMILY

The third child of Henry and Tabitha (Carroll) Vansickel.

In 1904 Clide W. Vansickel, born 1877 at Springfield, Illinois, the son of Henry and Tabitha (Carroll) Vansickel, married Maggie Viola Fullerton born in 1884 in Randolph County, Illinois, the daughter of David and Emma (Harmon) Fullerton.

They lived in Central City until 1912 when they moved by train to Lake City and Lanesboro, Iowa, where Clide worked for a time in a tile plant and later was employed on a farm. The boys remember taking their pet bantam hen in a bird cage with them to Iowa on the train. When the family first moved onto the farm a tornado destroyed all the buildings, even a block silo. This was the month of May, 1918. In March, 1921 the family moved to a farm near Ellendale, North Dakota. In June, Mrs. Vansickel died from pneumonia. In his later years Mr. Vansickel and his sister Ella Crandell made their home at Kirkland, Washington until his death in November, 1950.

Clide and Maggie had seven living children.

Lloyd Henry, born December 1904, at Central City. He joined the Navy for four years, after the hitch in the Navy he married Nettie Lentz of Lanesboro, Iowa. They had three children, Gerald, Jean and JoAnn twins. He lived most of his adult years at West Seattle, Washington. Lloyd died in 1969 as did his son Gerald. His widow and the twins live in Seattle, Washington.

Ruth Genevieve (Mrs. N.R. Lentz) was born March 28, 1906 at Central City, Nebraska. She had three children, Shirley, Robert, and Donna Jean. She died in May, 1932 at Lanesboro, Iowa.

John David, born July 3, 1907 in Central City, married Nora Strand and farmed for many years near Ellendale, North Dakota. He is retired and now lives there. They have three children, Donna Mae, Jack, and Kenneth.

Harold Clide, born May 6, 1909 in Central City, married Mae Gertrude Johnson of Donnybrook, North Dakota. He became a teacher and later moved to Cecil County, Maryland, in 1940. In 1943 he was drafted in the U.S. Navy. He retired as LCDR, USNR, and has three children Carol, Joan, and Myron and now lives at Perryville, Maryland.

Charles Perry, born July 29, 1912 Central City, and served during World War II in the U.S. Army. He lived and worked for a ship Rigging Company in Seattle until retirement. He has one daughter Nancy.

Gertrude Mae (Mrs. Earl Campbell) was born near Lanesboro, Iowa, in May 18, 1915. Her family has moved many times as her husband, now retired, served in the U.S. Air Force. She has two children, Meredth and Grant and she lives at Orangevale, California.

Effie Louise (Mrs. Ornby) was born near Lanesboro, Iowa, January 3, 1921 and served in the Army in World War II and later as a Police woman in Los Angeles, California. She is retired and lives in Washington State and has no children. *LCDR, Harold C. Vansickel USNR/Ret.*

LEE VAN ZANT FAMILY

Lee (Polly) Van Zant was born September 10, 1892 near North Loup, Nebraska. He came to Central City, Nebraska to attend Nebraska Central College and was introduced to a nice little gal named Lillian Stephen. Lillian was the daughter of James, December 16, 1845 (born in Scotland), Stephens, and Orissa Carolyn Kingsbury, born June 18, 1854, the first white child born in their community. Orissa's parents were Martin and Carolyn Kingsbury. Lillian was born July 28, 1893 and married Lee Van Zant at her parents' home September 24, 1914. This home is directly west across the street from the Friends Meeting House. The Wayne Ostrander family live there now and the home was built in 1912. Mr. Stephens owned a lumber yard. Mr. Stephens died May 11, 1923. Mrs. Stephens passed away October 27, 1932.

Lee and Lillian first lived near Fairview then moved to Lima, Montana, where Lee worked for the Union Pacific Railroad in the roundhouse. They lived in a log cabin and sometimes the temperature dropped to sixty below zero. After son Evan, was born they came back to farm near Fairview, later moving to the Stephens farm, at the corner of Inskip Street and Grand, just south of Nebraska Central College. This was known as the College Farm Dairy.

Two more sons were born here and all three attended District #8 school and Nebraska Central. Evan and Bob became teachers. Evan married a Central City girl, Ruth Gibson. They live in Peru, Nebraska and have two sons. Bob married Claire, of Scotland and they live in Rochester, Minnesota, and are teachers. Jerry worked for Kansas-Nebraska Gas here and at Harvard, Nebraska. He passed away April 25, 1974 at Aurora, Nebraska. Lee had passed away April 27, 1958 and they are buried at Central City, Nebraska.

Mrs. Van Zant has lived at the Merrick Manor almost nine years.

Mrs. Van Zant tells me, Raymona, many stories of the Nebraska Central College. Their large house contained fourteen rooms and was divided into a dormitory for the school. There were two stairways, one for girls, and one for boys. It had seven chimneys to take care of the heating stoves and kitchen, however the students were fed at the school. Houseparents' names are not remembered. Writer notes, "wouldn't it be terrible to have a dormitory that

wasn't modern." Mrs. Van Zant, a great lady, tells me that the May Day celebration was always a big event at the Nebraska Central College. *Submitted by Raymona Grigsby*

ALLEN VAUGHAN FAMILY

A dream come true — to be off to college! For me it was to Grand Island Baptist College, in September 1928, and also where I was to meet Allen Charles Vaughan. His father and my mother had also attended, so we became C.O.B.'s. Besides the academics, there were the extracurriculars: "Bill played football and I was a cheerleader; he played the trombone and I the trumpet; he edited "The Islander" and I debated; we joined the Grand Island Symphony; and there was romance!" Times were hard in 1931, so G.I.C. merged with Sioux Falls Baptist College, which became our alma mater in 1932. Allen worked with his father, who edited *The Guide Rock Signal*, and I taught English, drama, and music in Crofton, Nebraska, High School for two years.

Absence made the heart grow fonder, so on June 29, 1934, we were married by Dr. Hobbs our college pastor, in my home in Chapman. His first teaching and coaching were in Guide Rock for $75 per month. But our house rent was only $15 then! Our first daughter, Janet Ellen, was born September 23, 1936. The next year Allen became Superintendent of Sprague-Martell Consolidated High School, near Lincoln; our second daughter, Karin Anita, was born May 25, 1938; Joyce Deanne was born and died January 20, 1940.

My father had enlisted in the National Home Guard in 1918, and now my husband became involved in another war effort. In 1942, we moved to Grand Island where he was trained in supervision and production of bomb loading at the Quaker Oats Ordnance Plant. But teaching was his calling, so back to the chalkboard and coaching — at Barr Junior High School. We joined the First Baptist Church, where Allen sang in the choir and I was the pianist.

We acquired the Guide Rock Hardware in 1946, and also taught school again. Our girls graduated from high school, and Janet had two years at Ottawa Baptist College in Kansas before we moved to Bellflower, California in 1956. My dear father-in-law had died in 1952, so Allen's mother came to live with us. Our girls majored in music and graduated from Long Beach State University. We all joined the First Baptist Church and sang in the choir. Janet married Hubert Head, the choir director at that time, on July 11, 1959. Their children are Susan Ellen and David Allen; they live near the ocean in San Pedro. Karin married Melvin Weaver, August 4, 1960. Their children are Shary Ann, Michael Andrew, Robert Allen, and David Emanuel (for great-grandfather Magnuson), who live on a wooded twenty-acre knoll near Wynne, Arkansas. Allen's mother died in 1965, at the age of eighty-four. Both parents are buried in Guide Rock Cemetery.

We've traveled some — to Europe, the Holy Land, Alaska and Canada, Caribbean Islands, and most of the U.S. (best of all!) I retired in 1970 and Allen in 1976. Our home is in Los Alamitos, Orange County, California. *Submitted by Gladys Magnuson Vaughan*

JOHN VERGO

John Vergo was born in Germany, the son of Otto and Henrietta Vergo. In 1930 he came to United States to make his home, and worked on farms north of Grand Island.

In 1935 he was married to Nell Fleming of Chapman Nebraska. They moved to Iowa, but came back to Merrick County in 1941. They farmed near Pierce Chapel for several years then near Central City.

In 1960 John and Nell moved to Central City and John was employed by the county Highway Department from 1960-1978. Nell taught in our public schools. She attended Nebraska Central College and graduated from Kearney State College.

Four children were born of this marriage; Lois (Mrs. Maynard Fullington); Roger, of Pueblo, Colorado; Clarence of Leadville, Colorado; and Ronald, of Westminster, Colorado.

Nell died in 1979 after a lingering illness. In 1980 John and Margaret Holmes were married and reside in Central City. *Submitted by John Vergo*

GEORGE VERPLANK FAMILY

George Verplank and wife, Ella, came to Palmer, Nebraska, in 1924 from Tilden, Nebraska. They have lived in and around Palmer for fifty years.

George was born at Battle Creek, Nebraska, April 18, 1903. Ella was born at Palmer, Nebraska, July 16, 1906. George's parents were Mr. and Mrs. Bert Verplank of Meadow Grove, Nebraska. Ella's parents were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Freelend. Mrs. Freelend's maiden name was Minnie Glause of near St. Libory, a sister of Philip and Bill Glause. They lived in Merrick County for many years and later moved to Meadow Grove, Nebraska, and later moved back to Central City and lived there to the time of their death in May, 1938.

George and Ella were married at Stanton, Nebraska, June 20th, 1923. They celebrated their fiftieth anniversary at Palmer, Nebraska June 20, 1973.

George worked for Henry Grammer for ten years. He later started trucking and shelling corn. Ella worked at the Coolidge Hospital. Later it was used for a rest home.

They bought the former Harold Rice home in the south part of town, also, the Tom Douty house next door. Then in 1947, they sold those houses and bought the Floyd Adamson house one block north of the depot. They lived there until April, 1980. Then, on account of ill health, they had a sale and moved to the Parkside Plaza Annex at St. Paul, Nebraska.



George Verplank Family

The couple have six children, thirty-three grandchildren, and twenty-five great grandchildren.

The children are Layton Lee, born July 25, 1924, married to Marjorie Forman. Their home is at Sidney, Nebraska.

Helen Lorene, born December 6, 1925, married to Leon Kolar. Their home is in Wolbach, Nebraska.

Edna Louise, born on February 17, 1927, married to Carl Davison living in Palmer, Nebraska.

Allen LeRoy, born August 31, 1930, married to Vida Mae Stone, living in Kearney, Nebraska.

Lida Ellen, October 11, 1933. Married to Don Friedrichsen. Living on a farm south and east of Palmer, Nebraska.

Barbara Minnie, October 2, 1934, Married to Eugene Meyer living in Central City, Nebraska.

George and Ella are members of Palmer Church of Christ. Their motto is: Living one day at a time. *Submitted by George and Ella Verplank*

VIEREGG-FREE

James Vieregg came to this country to escape military training. He came by sailing vessel and landed in Georgia, went north to Iowa, and from there to the Gold Rush. He eventually came to Grand Island, Nebraska, to see two brothers, John and Henry. James decided to stay in Nebraska, and was said to be the first white homesteader. He couldn't obtain land in Hall County where his brothers lived, so settled in southwest Merrick County.

He married Sarah Martin, daughter of John L. Martin. John L. Martin's wife was said to have been, for many years, the only doctor between Kearney and Columbus. They lived on the homestead for seven years, then moved to Central City where James became a county officer. He later bought a flour mill, which he and his sons, Will and Karl, ran for years.

Sarah and "Jim" had seven children: Will, Nettie, Eva, Amy, Karl, Maud (who died in infancy), and Hazel. Will married Myrtle Scott and they had three children, Wilhelmina, Geraldine, and Billy. They all died in early adulthood in California where the family had moved when Will left his position in the Farmers State Bank.

Nettie married Ernest Fisher and lived in Wyoming. Eva married O.T. Bishop, a rising young hardware merchant, and continued to live in Central City. Amy married John Zane and also lived in Wyoming. Karl died at age twenty-six, proving up a claim at Hepner, Oregon. Hazel graduated from high school, as did the others, and went to Oberlin, Ohio, to college. Later, she married J.J. Baker, who retired at forty, a successful J.C. Penney manager. Their three children live in California.

Eva Vieregg and O.T. Bishop, married in November, 1892, had a daughter, Florence, born October 30, 1895. She was baptized Dec. 15, 1895, at Christ Episcopal Church in Central City, a church the Viereggs helped establish. At age eighty-five, Florence is still a member of the Episcopal Church.

Florence Bishop graduated from Central City High School in 1913, stayed home a year, and then attended the University of Nebraska, graduating in 1918. She was affiliated with Alpha Phi and Black Masque. On May 16, 1920, She married Carl H. Free, whose family also lived in Central City. Carl and his twin sister, Cecille, were born Oct. 29, 1894. Their sister, Gladys, was born in 1900. All graduated from Central City High School.

When Mr. Bishop bought out his partner, G.H. Withrow, in the hardware business, Carl became a



J. W. Vieregg Family

partner. The business was known as the Bishop Hardware Company.

On February 16, 1926, William Bishop Free was born. He graduated in 1944 from Central City High School, went into the Navy, then to Wisconsin and Nebraska Universities. In 1947, he married Barbara Schieber of Omaha. They have three children: L.S. Free, David B. Free, and Andrea Marie (now Mrs. J. Kraper) all living in the Minneapolis area, as are Bill and Barbara.

Submitted by Florence Bishop Free

ROBERT H. VIETH

In the 1800's when he was a young man, Fred Vieth and his cousin migrated to this country from Germany. Fred's cousin ventured on to Oregon to make his home, but Fred chose to remain in this area and it was here that he married and raised his family.

Fred would be my grandfather. My father, Henry Vieth, was born to this family in 1895. He lived all of his life in Hall and Merrick counties in Nebraska. He was a farmer and stockman until he retired in later years. In his younger years he served on the school board of District #17, located in the western part of Merrick County. My sisters, Caroline and Irene, and my brother, Arnold, as well as myself, Robert H. Vieth, all received our elementary education in District #17.

My mother, Clara (Bove) Vieth, was a member of the Adolph Bove family, who were also long time residents of Merrick County. She grew up in this large family that centered around the Chapman community.

The parents of the family stayed in Merrick County until they passed away, but eventually the remainder of the family scattered from Nebraska to the west coast.

My wife, Ruth Vieth, and I live in the same school district my father served, and our three children grew up here and were educated on the elementary level in the very same school as my brother, sisters, and I. In 1980 this building was taken down, although it was vacant for several years prior to demolition.

After serving in World War II and being discharged in 1946, I have farmed and raised livestock in this area. After having reared our family, we have now acquired a small camper and enjoy getting away as often as possible to do some camping and fishing. We also attend as many of the Big Red Nebraska football games as we possibly can. We really enjoy baseball games and in particular the World Series games.

On June 3, 1980, there was a devastating tornado in and surrounding the Grand Island area, which destroyed a great many businesses and homes. We live in this area near to Grand Island and also received quite extensive damage from the tornado, but consider ourselves lucky to have our home and our lives. *Submitted by R.H. Vieth*

CLARENCE VINCENT

Clarence was born near Osceola, Nebraska on June 24, 1886. In 1907 he married Myrtle Waggoner at the home of her parents, Reason and Emma (Krader) Waggoner. They lived on a farm east of Stromsburg which was known as the Shomaker place, later moving south of town to another farm where three children were born. They were Evelyn, Richard and Lela.

In January 1939, the family moved to Clarks. Mr. Vincent was employed at the Noble Dairy and later became manager of the Farmers Co-Op Store. He also was caretaker of the Clarks cemetery until his retirement.

During World War II he played piano and violin with a band known as "The Silver-Haired Daddys". The group entertained at dances in the Clarks and surrounding areas. Other members of the band were: Vincent Douglas, Dr. Shaw Little, Sam Wallace and William Strobel. Clarence also wrote a weather column for the Clarks Enterprise. He died December 20, 1973 and is buried in the Polk cemetery.

Myrtle Ethel (Waggoner) Vincent was born June 5, 1889 at Silver Creek, Nebraska. She attended



Clarence and Myrtle Vincent

country school in District #60 in Polk County, known as Swedenberg School. To further her education she lived with Horace Willits family in Polk County attending High Prairie School there.

Her hobbies were flowers and her family. She died in March of 1980. *Submitted by Lela Church*

FRED & JUNE VIPPERMAN

Our story began with a song! Fred was singing "Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life" at our High School Regional Contest in Giltner. I thought, "What a voice!" and was sure he would win, and he did! He asked me to ride back to Chapman with him. So we came home together — two happy students; I had also been the top typist of the day. Before long, Fred came often to my parents' home to enjoy Mother's cooking and an evening of study or music.

Born June 20, 1912, at Osmond, Nebraska, Fred had come with his five sisters to Chapman at age seventeen after his widowed mother, Laura Vipperman, married Lloyd Daniels. I was born June 12, 1916, at Chapman. My parents were William and Mildred Knight.



Fred and June Vipperman

After High School, Fred and I attended Nebraska Central College on borrowed money. This was at the depth of the Great Depression. Many lifelong friendships were made there. Fred taught school in District #28 in 1935 for $50 monthly; I started in District #17. We somehow paid for his 1930 Pontiac and my 1929 Oldsmobile.

We were married June 22, 1937, and lived at my Grandparent Smiths' farm. Although living without electricity was new to us, we felt quite modern with a wind charger for a battery radio, and a gasoline cookstove. Our income that first year of farming was $217, but we were happy working and having friends in often. To supplement our income, we taught at District #23 for two years.

After Pearl Harbor, we lived in Omaha where Fred worked in the Martin Bomber Plant. Our daughter, Elizabeth, was born there September 1, 1943. After his Air Force service, we returned to the farm at Chapman. Our son, John Frederick, joined us January 30, 1950. For some years, Fred managed the Chapman Grain Co-op, then transferring to the Phillips Chemical Plant at Aurora, from which he recently retired.

In 1956, I returned to teaching in Chapman and graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1962, later taking graduate hours at Kearney State College. I am "still teaching"; the hundreds of boys and girls I have taught have been a very important part of my life.

Raising our children brought us great happiness! Elizabeth, a graduate of Kearney State College, teaches Spanish in the Grand Island Central Catholic High School. She is married to Richard Hodtwalker, a banker in Grand Island. They have two daughters, Christine and Adrienne, so dear to us.

John F. (Freddie), a graduate of the University of Nebraska Law College, practices law, mostly criminal defense, in Grand Island.

In our lifetime, there have been many changes. Recently, during a furnace repair job, we installed a wood burner in our kitchen, somewhat completing an energy cycle — from wood to oil to propane to wood again.

During these forty-three years together, we have had the fun of traveling some of this great nation, but are always proud to call Merrick County our home. We have contined to sing — at weddings, at funerals, at church, at home. "The Song Has *Not* Ended", and the melody lingers on . . . *Submitted by June Knight Vipperman*

EMIL VOLKMAN FAMILY

Emil Volkman was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1865. His parents, German immigrants, married in 1863, settled in Omaha and later on a farmstead in Saunders County. On April 19, 1898 he married Margaret Fishler in a country church at Plasi, Nebraska. Margaret's parents married in Wisconsin and she was born near Bagley in 1877. The family moved to Saunders County in the 1880's. Her father had emigrated from Germany when a boy. His mother died on board ship and was buried at sea. Volkmans began married life on a farm west of Central City, selling it in 1901, then bought one southwest of Chapman on the Wood River. The river over-flowed two successive years so in 1903 they sold and purchased the meat market in Chapman and were in business until July 1904. Mr. Volkman then became telephone lineman. He built most of the lines and installed and repaired telephones.

The telephone office and post office of Chapman, including living quarters, were located in the same building on the south side of main street. In 1914 Volkmans succeeded Ezra Gallogly as switchboard operators. A.C. Schmutz became postmaster.

Without electric motors, telephone connections were made by using a hand crank. Rural patrons were alerted to listen to important news by ten short rings. Mr. Volkman notified patrons early in A.M. when World War I was over.

When informed by phone of a fire, a family member rang the fire bell located in a tower near-by. Later a siren was operated from the telephone office for fires and time of day.

A nighttime fire April 20, 1915 destroyed Garbers home, Reeves store and another building on the north side of the street. Danger of south-side build-



Mrs. Margaret Volkman — 1939



Von der Lieth Family — 1912

ings catching fire caused Volkmans to move some furniture and bedding to a vacant lot. Post office supplies were moved, too, with Mrs. Schmutz guarding. The Grand Island fire department fought the blaze as Chapman had little if any equipment.

Mr. Volkman, a self-taught carpenter and electrician built barns, hayracks, and worked on some homes, drove pumps, set up windmills and machinery. He and Ralph Crandall wired most homes and businesses in town for electricity. Emil liked to fish and hunt and often shared game with friends. Mrs. Volkman helped many families in time of illness or death. Left a widow in 1925 with five children at home, she continued management of the switchboard until 1941. The telephone office was moved in 1927 to a newer building in the same block.

There were eight Volkman children: Mabel Fishburn, Chapman, was employed by Ury's Drug and later Farmer's Union; Lucy Gray, California, was a school teacher and later telephone operator; Edith Cahow, Omaha, was a school teacher; Tressa, Grand Island, clerked in Farmers store and Klingenberg grocery, later postmaster, transferring to Grand Island post office; John, Central City was employed by Union Pacific; Emil (deceased) operated a Texaco station; Margaret Andersen, Omaha, was employed by Chicago Lumber Company; Dwayne, of Denver, was Director, Supply and Control Division at General Services Administration. *Submitted by Tressa Volkman*

HENRY VON DER LIETH FAMILY

Henry Matthias Von der Lieth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Von der Lieth of Osterende Parish, Germany, was born March 24, 1857 at the Parish of Otterndorf in Hanover, Germany. In 1867 his mother died so he was taken into an orphanage home until he was fifteen years of age. After that he worked on a farm until November 1873, when he came to the U.S. with some relatives and friends. They landed in New York. He then traveled west arriving in Jackson, now known as Duncan, Nebraska. Here he made his home with Mrs. Mahler for a short time while he worked on the Genoa-Albion branch line until 1880.

December 4, 1880 he married Miss Augusta Plageman in a sod house in Polk County. He farmed in Polk County until 1888. He became a U.S. Citizen in Platte County, March 18, 1893.

In June 1893, he took a homestead in Merrick County about six miles northeast of Silver Creek on the Merrick and Platte County lines. In 1906 they moved to the Likely farm near Gardner which was a railroad stop between Duncan and Silver Creek. They moved into Duncan in 1912 where he bought the old Mill Race farm and lived there until he died September 5, 1935.

My mother, Augusta Plageman, was born March 14, to Augusta and Fredrick Plageman. Augusta was born February, 1834 and died July 16, 1904. Fredrick was born February 17, 1814 in Maklanburg, Germany and died May 19, 1880.

My parents, August and Henry, both were members of the Lutheran Church. My mother died July 19, 1920. They both are buried in Columbus, Nebraska. They had three sons and four daughters. William was born July 19, 1882, attended school in District #52. He was an employee of the Union Pacific Railroad. He had three daughters. He died March 13, 1941 and is buried in the Silver Creek Cemetery.

Fred was born December 29, 1879 and spent his entire life in Silver Creek. He was a U.P. painter and a member of IOOF and Royal Highlanders. He died in 1947.

Emma was born September 7, 1884 west of Duncan. She had four sons and one daughter. She died in 1935.

Margaret was born July 29, 1886 and died in 1964. She had one daughter and one son.

Otto was born October 14, 1894. He served in World War I and died September 25, 1948 and is buried in Columbus.

I have no dates on Amelia (Mrs. James Edmison Gardinar). She had three daughters and one son.

Lena died in infancy.

Helen (myself) was born September 14, 1900. After my father's death the farm was turned over to brother Otto and myself, where we lived until Otto died September 25, 1948. We neither married but made a home for several nieces and nephews. I then took up odd jobs and continued to live on the farm until it was sold in 1973, then I lived with my sister on her farm and after her death have continued to live there. *Submitted by Helen Von der Lieth*

EMIL & ROSA VON OHLEN

Emil Richard Von Ohlen was born July 1, 1889, son of Henry J. and Clara Grosch Von Ohlen. He came to live on the farm on Prairie Creek, two and a half miles east of the corner south of Worms, when he was five years old. He lived there all his life. He purchased the farm from his father for about $10.00 per acre, milking cows, raising crops, hogs, and chickens.

Rosa Ueckert was born in 1898 to Fred J. and Minnie M. Ueckert. A brother, Werner, lives in Bethesda Nursing Home in Central City. Fred was born October 7, 1846, and died July 15, 1932. Minnie was born April 17, 1864, and died June 18, 1952.

Emil and Rosa were married October 14, 1920. They raised five children. Esther (Taylor) of Lincoln, born July 20, 1927, has children Jerry of Wyoming and Penny Taylor Moore of Fremont, California. Vern Henry, born April 16, 1929, lives in Central City. He is married to Shirley Swanson Broshears and they have her three children, Debby, Rhonda, and Randy. Bud, born March 22, 1931, lives on the Prairie Creek farm of his father in Merrick County and is unmarried. Frederick Bud, born August 20, 1938, is owner of the Prairie Creek farm. He is married to Jetta Lea Schmidt Smith and has adopted her three children, Carla, Dwaine, and Jacqueline. Dorothy (McGinty), born May 12, 1944, is married to Larry McGinty and lives in Columbus, Indiana. They have two children, Patrick M. and Michael Joseph.

Emil and his father share a death date of November 9, Emil passing away in 1969. Rosa died February 24, 1959, and both are buried at Zion in Worms. All the Von Ohlen families are of the Lutheran faith. *Submitted by Jetta Lea Von Ohlen*

FREDERICK & JETTA VON OHLEN

Frederick Bud Von Ohlen, son of Emil and Rosa Ueckert Von Ohlen, was born August 20, 1938. He grew up on his father's farm, helping with the farming operation. He graduated from Chapman High School in 1956 and attended one semester of Business College in Omaha.

Jetta Lea Schmidt, daughter of Frank and Jetta Marie Walton Schmidt, was born July 31, 1942, at Plainview, Nebraska, in Pierce County. Jetta attended Plainview Elementary School, a country grade school seven miles west of Niobrara, and the Niobrara High School.

Jetta was married to Bernard Dwaine Smith, deceased, the father of her children: Carla Marie, born September 2, 1959; Dwaine Allan, born August 27, 1960; and Jacqueline Kay, born January 13, 1962. Dwaine is now married to LaDonna Marie



Fred VonOhlen Family — **L-r** — Jetta, Carla, Fred, Dwaine and Jackie.

Wilson of Grand Island, and they have a son Ronnie, born January 12, 1979, and a daughter, Sarah, born January 5, 1981.

Fred and Jetta were married January 29, 1967, at Zion Lutheran in Worms. Moving her family from their home in Chapman, Fred legally adopted Jetta's children and has raised them as his own.

Fred and Jetta bought the 260 acres of his father's farm in 1978, having kept it in the Von Ohlen name for eighty-seven years. They have a diversified operation, raising corn, milo, alfalfa, cattle, hogs, and hens. Jetta supplies eggs on a regular basis to customers in the area.

Fred served on the Chapman Co-op Elevator Board of Directors for three years. Jetta is a member of the Cheerie Center Club, since 1969, and has served two terms as president of the Extension Club.

Fred and Jetta like to travel, and have taken many trips around the United States. They are members of Eagles FOE #378, Grand Island, and belong to Farmer's Union. Fred and Jetta always raise a large garden, Jetta does lots of canning and baking, and does a good part of the physical labor on the couple's farm. *Submitted by Jetta Lea Von Ohlen*



Henry J. VonOhlen Family — **L-r** — Henry, Martha, Amil, Alma, Richard, Bertha, Clara.

HENRY & CLARA VON OHLEN

Henry J. Von Ohlen was born January 4, 1851, in Germany. He was a laborer and went every fall into Holland to cut grain with a scythe. Thus he earned enough money to pay for the cheapest ticket to America; it meant he rode in the bottom of the ship. Sometime during those years in Germany he served with the German Army, helping control the French until a new government was organized.

Arriving in New York, he set out for Kansas where he had some success as a road builder. Saving enough money to buy two mules and a dirt sled, he had endless trouble with the stubborn mules.

Again saving his money until he could travel, he made his way to Dannebrog, Nebraska, where he bought a farm.



Julius and Bertha Vogel Grosch

Clara Grosch, daughter of Julius and Bertha Vogel Grosch, was born in Germany August 25, 1868. She and her whole village emigrated to the United States.

Henry and Clara were married in Dannebrog. They had six children. Emil was born July 1, 1889. Alma (Hilmer) lives in Boelus, Richard Henry lived in Merrick County. Martha (Ogle) lives in Omaha. Bertha (Waldraven) lives in Wichita Falls, Texas. Walter lives in Phoenix, Arizona.

Henry sold the Dannebrog farm and bought land in Merrick and Hall counties. He loaned money to his neighbors from time to time as a side-line. Henry made three trips back to Germany to visit his relatives still in the old country. He died November 17, 1927, Clara died March 1, 1960, and both are buried in a cemetery south of here.

In her later years, Clara lived with their son, Richard, in Grand Island. Richard and his wife, Nell, had a paper goods store with a soda fountain and any kind of item imaginable. They sold many imported tobaccos. Richard and Nell had a daughter, Betty, whom Clara took care of when Nell worked at the store.

Betty is now Mrs. Gerald Nelson, whose husband is a contractor in Grand Island. Betty is principal of Knickrem School. She and Gerald have a son Steven and live on acres originally owned by Henry Von Ohlen. *Submitted by Jetta Lea Von Ohlen*

ALMA NIEDFELT WAGNER

Alma Augusta Niedfelt Wagner was born May 12, 1913, at Grand Island, to Diedrick J. and Ella Scherzberg Niedfelt. She married Vanier P. Wagner on June 8, 1932. Vanier was the son of Wilda and Sarah Carmody Wagner, born February 10, 1913, at Arcadia.

Alma and Vanier Wagner lived in Grand Island. They were the parents of two children. Sondra Wagner married Donald Niemoth, and Jack Lee Wagner was married to Judy Wiese and later to Betty Ondracek.

Vanier Wagner passed away in 1975 and is buried in the Grand Island City Cemetery. Alma lives at Grand Island. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl Karen Niedfelt*

AUGUST JOHN WAGNER



August and Johanna Wagner — 50th Anniversary

August John Wagner came to Dodge County, Nebraska in 1870 from Wisconsin, where he was born in a log cabin June 29, 1869, his father having emigrated to the United States from Germany in 1864. He was raised around Scribner, Nebraska, where his father had purchased 160 acres of prairie land.

August married Johanna Siercks in 1894 at Fremont, Nebraska. Johanna was born in 1875 at Holstein, Germany. She emigrated to the United States with a brother and sister when she was sixteen years old. She had sisters and brothers already living near Scribner. They all worked and saved their money to pay for their parents' fare so they, too, could come to the land of promise.

August and Johanna farmed around Scribner until 1905 when they moved to Colorado and lived for a short time. They purchased a farm and moved to the Central City area in 1912. They moved from Colorado to the Central City area in a covered wagon, herding their livestock along the way.

August and Johanna had twelve children: Silda Stelk — deceased 1969; Lydia — deceased 1946; Roy who still lives in Central City; Clause who farmed in the Central City area all his life until he retired and moved to Central City. He passed away August, 1980; Frances Hanna — lives in Idaho; Clara Powers Summerville — lives in California; Howard — died 1944 in Boise, Idaho; Glen — a twenty year navy veteran who was at Pearl Harbor in 1941. He lives in Bellingham, Washington; Mildred McIntosh — lives at North Platte, Nebraska; Erma White — lives in Waco, Texas; Heber C. — lives in Central City; Edna — deceased as infant.

August and Johanna were married sixty-three years. *Submitted by Alma Wagner*

HEBER WAGNER FAMILY



Heber and Alma Wagner



Tom and Nancy Wagner Family



Travis, Joyce and Tyler Wagner — 1980

Heber C. the youngest son of August and Johanna Wagner, was born and raised in the Central City area and has farmed all his life. He married Alma Travis in 1942, ten days before he left for the service in World War II, where he was in the 8th Air Force. He spent thirty-one months in England where he was a crew chief on B-17 airplanes

Alma was born and raised in Hamilton County, but graduated from Central City High School. She attended Nebraska Central College and the University of Nebraska. She taught three years at the Hord Ranch School, two miles east of Central City, and three years at District #48, three miles West of Central City. She taught the forty-three months Heber was in the service. Heber purchased the Alva Kiser farm, six miles west of Central City in 1952 and the J.R. Rodysil farm in 1963. Heber and Alma had two sons.

Travis Allan, born in 1946, graduated from Central City High School and University of Nebraska. He served three years in the Armed Forces in Viet Nam and Germany. While in Viet Nam, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross with "V" Devices. He married Joyce Tallon of Fullerton in 1970. They have a son, Tylr. Travis is interested in "running" and owns the "Phidippides" running store in Lincoln.

Thomas Kent was born in 1948. He graduated from Central City High School, where he was active in sports. He was chosen to represent Central City High School when he attended Boys' State. He was elected a Supreme Court Justice. He graduated from Wayne State College. He taught business courses and was head track coach at Deshler for four years before returning to the family farm in 1975. He married Nancy Hammons in 1969. They have two sons, Sean Thomas and Trent Patrick, so the Wagner name will be further perpetuated. Besides farming, the Tom Wagners have a hog farrowing operation.

The Heber Wagners and their sons have been active in the Episcopal Church all their lives. Heber and Alma are both active in Legion and Auxiliary activities. *Submitted by Alma Wagner*

ROY WAGNER FAMILY

Roy Wagner was the third child of August and Johanna Wagner. He was born February 23, 1899, at home near Scribner. He was six years old when his family moved to Colorado. One time while he and his brother, Clause, were herding cows, a rattlesnake bit the nose of their dog and he died before they got him home.

His parents came to Central City in 1912. He attended rural schools in Merrick County and attended Nebraska Central College one winter. He helped his father with the farming until 1923 when he married Lizzie Zlomke at Archer, and began farming for himself.

Lizzie was born July 3, 1898 at Duff, Nebraska and attended school in Rock County. She came to Central City in 1915. They went to Scribner on their honeymoon. They farmed twenty three years in Merrick County. In 1944 he purchased a farm in Hamilton County and lived there until 1962 when they bought their present home at 2123 South 14th Avenue Central City.

Roy and Lizzie had three children: Gale, Betty, Robert. Gale was born March, 1924. He attended school in Merrick County and graduated from Central City High School. He married Elaine Stevenson at Aurora. They had two daughters: Roberta Parks of Aurora, who with her husband Paul Parks, are in the warehouse business in Aurora. Roberta and Paul have two sons, Jason and Joshua. Gale's second daughter, Janice, graduated from Hastings College and the University of St. Louis. She is presently employed as a chemical engineer in Boston, Massachusetts.

Gale and Elaine are both deceased.

Roy and Lizzie's second child, Betty, was born and raised in Merrick County, graduating from Central City High School. She married Harlan Green of Aurora in 1947. They live on a farm near Aurora. They have two children. Rodney lives near Lincoln, Nebraska, and Polly married Calvin Thelander. Polly has a girl Christy. Polly lives near Aurora and is manager of the Dairy Queen at the Conestoga Mall in Grand Island.



Roy and Lizzie Wagner Family

Robert Lee was born to Roy and Lizzie in 1929 and died March, 1930.

Roy and Lizzie celebrated their fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in January, 1973 with open house at Methodist Church in Central City. In January, 1981, they observed their fifty-eighth Anniversary at home with relatives and friends. They are still living at 2123 14th Ave. in Central and still enjoy playing cards and taking care of their yard and garden. *Submitted by Alma Wagner*

J. HOWARD WAGNER FAMILY

In 1923, J. Howard Wagner, Esther Marie, and infant son, Forrest Lee arrived to take up residence in Central City, Nebraska. An entomologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Maryland, with a full experience in almost all aspects of agriculture, J. Howard planned to set up a commercial apiary in this area of clovers and alfalfa.

Such was not to be. A wide range of railroad experiences soon found J. Howard working for the Signal Department of the Union Pacific Railroad. Then he became a towerman for the Union Pacific at the intersection of the Union Pacific and Burlington railroads. He took time off to inspect bees for the State of Nebraska, and served as president of the Nebraska Honey Producers' Association.

Honey production, conducted in conjunction with fruit tree propagation and garden production, became family projects with full participation by all members of the family. Mother brought her love of music, and the hours of the mornings were filled with long recitals from compositions of the masters played on the piano.

In 1927, we welcomed the birth of Richard, who was later to amaze us with his talents.

Esther Marie, a former school teacher, nurtured her sons and, later Kaye, into scholastic and spiritual ways. She participated fully in the M.E. Church affairs, in the choir, and on the official board. Community interest was expressed in the P.T.A. and the Woman's Club with presidencies in each. She sought the church organist's position and found a genuine musical and athletic challenge. Then there was the bridge club, a group, to her, without peer.

Forrest worked for the Beatrice Creamery Company during his high school years. Later, a consuming interest in sports and newspaper work caused Richard to coach basketball at the Hordville High School and to work regularly for the United Press while still in high school. In 1942, Kaye was born, and in a few short years she, too, was going to North Ward School.

After World War II service, Forrest received a B.A. degree from Nebraska Central College and a B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska. Later, after Navy service, Richard entered front office management in professional baseball. During this period he married Gloria Jean Larsen. We were delighted to watch his rise to the presidency of the Cincinnati Reds, and we enjoy his frequent visits from far away states.

When the Union Pacific tower was discontinued in 1949, the family moved to Grand Island. There, J. Howard worked until retirement. Kaye excelled in school and graduated from the University of Nebraska with a B.S. in physical education to teach school at the James Monroe High School in Van Nuys, California.

In 1964, Mother abruptly passed away and in 1967, J. Howard moved back to Central City. Forrest left work as a road salesman for the Baker Manufacturing Company of Omaha to help J. Howard with honey production, which continues to this very day. *Submitted by Forrest L. Wagner*

MAX & SOPHIA WAGNER

My other paternal great-grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Max Wagner. Grandfather, the youngest of six children, was born in a sod house in section sixteen of Prairie Creek Township on September 18, 1881. His parents, Solomon and Theresa, had just arrived from Saxony, Germany. Max died on December 1, 1964.



Max and Sophia Wagner — 1904

On July 14, 1904, Max married Sophia Meyer. She had come from Hanover, Germany at the age of four with her parents, Johann and Margaretha Meyer. Grandmother, the eldest of nine children, was born on November 8, 1885, and died November 23, 1978.

Max and Sophia had three children: Frieda, born on March 6, 1906, had four children and lives near Worms; Erwin, born October 21, 1908, lived in Grand Island and had two children, he died July 19, 1976; and Armin, born October 7, 1915, had six children and presently lives in Bella Vista, Arkansas. *Submitted by Ron Simonson*

PAUL & ANTONIA WAGNER

In 1876, Johann Christlieb and Caroline Ernestine Wagner came to America from Saxony, Germany. They brought their ten children: Julius, David, Selma and Ida (Married Seim brothers), Pauline (Goehring), Minnie (Damman), Bernhard, Paul Henry, and Lydia (Windfield).

Johann bought the northwest corner of section 18-13-8 from the railroad in 1876. After his death, his son Paul, born January 29, 1870, acquired part of the land (Northwest Quarter 19-13-8) just across the road south from where his parents had lived. In 1976, America's Bi-Centennial Year, Johann's grand-daughter, Stella Glause, would receive the AK-SAR-BEN Pioneer Farm Award for 100 Years of Continuous Ownership Within the Family of the Same Nebraska Farm Ground.

July 3, 1894, Paul married Antonia Christine Buchfinck. She was born March 3, 1876. Paul and Antonia had four children: Hattie, the oldest, mar-

ried (North) Onen Simonson. Bruno married Clara Tegler, who died in the 1920's: they had one daughter, Lucille Fay, who lives in Grand Island. Claus was the younger son: he died at the age of 17 in Kansas City where he was attending automobile and tractor school. Stella, the youngest, married Phillip William (Bill) Glause, and one of their sons still lives on the Wagner Family Farm.

Paul Wagner died August 15, 1938, and Antonia died December 3, 1924. Both are buried at Zion Lutheran Church in Worms, their church home. *Submitted by Mrs. William Glause*

TRAUGOTT & PAULINE WAGNER

Traugott Wagner and Pauline Schuessler Wagner came to America from Langenberg, Koenigrich, Saxony, Germany in 1879 with their five children. Anna, the oldest, was fourteen at that time. They settled on the bank of the Prairie Creek about three miles southeast of what would become the community of Worms in western Merrick County. Mr. Wagner emigrated to America to keep his sons from compulsory military training and service in their homeland. Anna married Carl Herman Scheer.

He was a farmer for his entire life. *Compiled from a manuscript by Frieda Clara Scheer Schipman*

WANDRO

My parents, Joe and Sophia Wandro, moved to Merrick County in 1910, to a farm 6 miles northwest of Silver Creek. They had moved from a farm south of the Platte River in Polk County south of Duncan, with their three oldest children, Clara, Monica and Ed. The address was Genoa, but the farm was in the little square corner of Merrick County which lies way up on the map.

A school was built about ½ mile from us, North 6 District, where we all got our first education.

My folks lived in a 3-room house next to the road, which later was moved back in farther and joined to another 2-room house, which became my birth place. I, Victoria, was the 6th child of a family of 12 children. Louis and Phyllis were born before the house was moved, with Anna, Albert, Mary, Ben, Josephine and Joseph following after me.

My father farmed the land with horses. He raised small grain, corn and hay. We always milked around 20 cows. We raised sheep, which were hand-sheared, and sold the wool. We always had chickens, which was a lot of our meat and eggs. We also raised ducks and geese for their feathers, which were used for pillows and feather beds to sleep under and keep out the cold. Our garden was big every year. Mother canned 400 to 500 quarts each summer. The cave was always full of winter potatoes and a big barrel of sauerkraut.

In summer, a pork was butchered and the meat was fried down and kept under lard in big stone jars. During cold months of winter, a beef was butchered and kept frozen in outside buildings, and some would be canned.

My brothers kept the farm in the family until 1970 when it was sold. Today, one wouldn't know the place, as not a tree or building is left to remember our home.

I married Jim Harris in 1934. We now live in Lexington, Nebraska. We lived on the farm a short while and our first daughter, Patricia, was born in the same house I was. We had 5 girls and one boy, James Joseph, who passed away in 1975. Our 3rd daughter, Jeri, married Udell Podliska, and now lives on a farm by Silver Creek. They have 4 children, and their oldest, Kirt, will graduate from the Silver Creek High School in the spring of 1981, the same school I did.

The Wandro family still is remembered in Merrick County, and for years to come. *Submitted by Vicki (Wandro) Harris*



Joe and Sophia Wandro — 1900

JOHN WATKINS FAMILY

John Hiram Watkins was born in Oakford, Illinois, on January 9, 1870, to Warren C. Watkins and Sarah Jane Thomas Watkins. He was orphaned at two and one half years of age. When he was thirteen years old he lived with the Ogdens and accompanied them west to Chapman in 1883. He remained in their home until manhood.



Johnny and Mollie Watkins

In 1894 he married Millie Dooley Farrell. Their first daughter, Estella Mae, was born June 20, 1896. The family moved to Mason County, Illinois, in 1897. Their four other children were born there, Eola Jane, Beatrice Marie, Eli Edgar and Herbert Ernest. In March of 1910 they returned to Nebraska and lived on the Pat Farrell farm in Irishtown until they purchased their own farm from Arthur Blevins.

John died December 24, 1935. Mollie died February 27, 1951.

Estella Mae married Warren Reynolds and lived in Lexington, Nebraska. They had two children, Marjorie and Norman.

Eola married Daniel Earl Donavan and she lives in Arvada, Colorado. Daniel Earl died January 10, 1974. Eola and Earl had two children, Marcia, who died at three weeks of age and Marvin Earl, who lives in California.

Beatrice Marie married Percy S. Powell and they lived in this community until their death. They had four children, Donald, Jean Marie, Raymond and Eola Mae.

Eli and Ernest Watkins died when they were small children. *Submitted by Eola Watkins Donovan*

LAWRANCE & NITA WATKINS

Nita Bernice Rawlings was born May 16, 1910 to Anna Pearl Curtis and John Oren Rawlings on their farm one half mile north of Archer, Nebraska. In 1914 we moved one half mile north and one and three-quarter miles east where I lived until I married. I attended District #14 school and graduated from the Archer High School in 1928. I attended the Grand Island School of Business and started working in the County Judges office in Central City in 1929. I married Robert Lawrance Watkins April 30, 1931 in the Methodist Parsonage in Central City.

Robert Lawrance was born October 15, 1904 to Robert Joseph and Jessie Leslie Watkins in Manhattan, Illinois. He was active in Boy Scouts and the Methodist Church while growing up. He came to Nebraska at the age of eighteen where he worked on the farm and with the Delco Light Company wiring houses for electricity.

After our marriage he worked on the Marion Marsh farm where we lived. Betty Jane and Barbara Jean, twin daughters were born October 17, 1932. We started farming for ourselves one half mile north of Archer where the twins started their schooling in Archer and a daughter Mary Belle born May 25, 1938 made her appearance.

Later we moved two miles west and one north of Central City on an Uncle's farm. The girls attended District #8 school. After the farm was sold we moved two miles south and one and one half west where Mary Belle attended District #12 school and the twins were in High School.

Then we lived on my parents' farm two years while they made their home in Central City and finally in 1956 purchasing the Dunovan farm one mile north and two and a half east of Archer which we still own.

We were both active in the Methodist Church, until moving near Central City, changed our membership to the Friends Church in Central City.

In 1934 I started back to work in the Judge's office, then in the Treasurer's office and acted as Deputy Treasurer five years. After the death of Arthur Nicholas February 5, 1954 I finished his term of office as County Treasurer then worked in the Republican-Nonpareil office for Elgin O. White as bookkeeper and did secretarial work. I worked for the Riley Insurance Company one year then back to the Republican-Nonpareil until 1973 when I retired to take my father into our home after he had broken his hip.

Lawrance died suddenly from a heart attack July 19, 1972 and my father died in November 1973. Both are buried in the Central City Cemetery. I continued work in the Republican-Nonpareil office different times as I was needed and again when it was sold to Stephenson and Willoughby until they were able to get the help they needed.

Aside from my office work, I led 4H several years, County Extension Chairman in 1949, was Worthy Matron of Eastern Star in 1952 and 1979 and in 1952 attended Grand Chapter of OES as a Grand Page for Walter Raecke. I was President of the Past



Lawrence Watkins Family — 1971

Matron's Club in 1965, taught Cradle Roll and Beginners in Sunday School many years and was President of the W.S.C.S. when it was first organized. I also served on the School Board while living in District #8. Lawrance was a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Order of the Eastern Star. He also served on the School Board in District #14.

We celebrated our fortieth wedding anniversary in April 1971 by holding open house in our home.

After Lawrance's death, I bought a house in Central City at 101 D Street and moved into it the last of September, 1974 where I still live. I have enjoyed a trip to Hawaii and Israel and several trips with the Senior Citizens to Canada, Nova Scotia and many parts of the USA. I do volunteer work for many different groups and enjoy taking people or helping where needed and I do enjoy my yard. *Submitted by Mrs. Nita Watkins*

HARRY WEBER FAMILY

Harry Lincoln Weber was born December 31, 1861, in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, (the same county where his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were born) to Samuek H. and Ellen Finney Weber.

Lura R. Dresser was born February 7, 1867, in Lee County, Iowa.

They met at the ages eighteen and twenty-three on a farm near Carthage, Illinois, where both were employed.

They were married near Donnelson, Iowa, on December 20, 1887, and honeymooned on a train trip to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to visit his relatives. She said that's the way you spent your honeymoon in those days.

After spending a few years in Iowa and Illinois, on March 6, 1893, they moved to Palmer, Nebraska, to a ranch northwest of town. In 1909 they moved to a farm three and one half miles southwest of Palmer where they farmed until they moved to Palmer in 1943 to the old "Copeland" house.

They were charter members of the Palmer Methodist Church. Harry was the last living charter member.

They had lived together sixty-seven years when Lura died on June 19, 1954.

When asked for a slogan for a good married life, she said "When you scrap, be sure you makeup".

After her death, Mr. Weber lived alone for several years, kept his own house, raised a big garden, and carried the mail to the "old people" in the neighborhood when he was ninety years of age.

They had three children: Merle 1889-1959, Ethel Ross 1890 — still living in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming; and Lloyd 1899-1971.

They were two grandparents worth remembering. *A Granddaughter, Lula Gram*

GARY & CAROLE WEBSTER

Howard Jack and Irene Matson Webster met their first child, Gary, on June 10, 1946, in a Rome New York hospital. As post war jobs were difficult to find, the family moved several months later from Howard's home town to Nebraska, Irene's home state. Eventually, in the early 50's, the Websters made their home on a ranch near Wellfleet. The house lacked indoor plumbing and telephones did not reach the area until Gary was a teenager. Eventually electricity was installed by means of a windcharger.

Gary had three siblings: Joyce who died at age five; Janelda; and David. All attended a small rural school and graduated from North Platte High School. Gary attended Chadron State College and graduated from Kearney State College in 1970.

Carole Louise Bacon was born at Milford, Nebraska, January 21, 1947, and was adopted by Lloyd A. and Ruth Naomi Metcalf Bacon on March 22 of that year from the Nebraska Children's Home. The family returned to their home at Lexington, Nebraska. During the summer of 1963 the Bacons moved to North Platte. Carole attended North Platte High and worked for her father in the bank. After graduation she attended college then moved to Denver. During a summer outing to Cheyenne Frontier Days she and Gary met. Married in November of 1968 they settled in Kearney where Gary was attending classes. In March of 1970, twins, Brent and Jason, who died shortly after birth were buried at a North Platte cemetery. Three weeks after graduation, Gary and Carole moved to Central City where he became associated with the Farmer's National Bank. He became president in 1980.

A year after that move, on August 17, Brandon Lloyd was born. Also, that same summer we purchased our first house at 1415-15th Street from Margaret Locke. Justin Wayne was born on March 13, 1977. The house was sold to Stanley and Opal Bice in May, 1978. Immediately plans were begun to build another home. The house at 1410-23rd Street was completed in September of 1979.

All family members maintain a busy schedule. Community activities are very important. *Submitted by Carole Webster*

AUGUST WEGNER FAMILY

August Wegner was born in Germany in 1851. In his early teens, he migrated to Wisconsin, and in 1872 to Lone Tree, Nebraska. He worked as a section hand for the UP Railroad while he proved up his claim west of Archer on weekends. He returned to Wisconsin and married Amelia Schellkopf on May 11, 1874. They came to Archer, and Amelia would often remark, "And I saw there was nothing." August was ill with typhoid the first summer, and Amelia broke sod with one ox and their cow. Prairie grass was armpit high.

They planted a timber claim, which became the setting for the well-known Fourth of July picnics, which were widely attended from the turn of the century until World War I.

They were charter members of Zion Evangelical Church and were faithful workers there, August as treasurer and Amelia as a Sunday School teacher. (The boys in her class always got a pocket knife for Christmas and girls a hair ribbon). Visiting ministers often found a welcome in their home. The bell at Zion was a gift from Amelia.

Amelia was a competent nurse, and was often called upon in all kinds of weather to preside at a birth or to minister to the dying. She held the chloroform while a doctor did surgery on a well-scrubbed kitchen table. Patient lived! Amelia was also well-known for her beautiful quilts, which found their way into many homes. She was adept at spinning wool and baking springerles.

Nine children grew up in this family, but none are now living. They were: John (married Emma Zamzow); Fred (Mary Muchow); Mary (William Wegner); Gustave (Minnie Retzlaff); Robert (Mary Retzlaff); Rose, (Henry Nedrig); Emma (Charles Retzlaff); Elizabeth (Silas Goetz); Frank (Anna Retzlaff).

August died March, 1933, and Amelia in January, 1944. They are buried in Archer Evangelical Community Cemetery. *Marilyn Djernes*

JOHN & EMMA WEGNER

Biographical Sketch of John and Emma Wegner: A Family History.

John William Wegner was born December 30, 1875 to pioneer parents, August and Amelia Wegner, near Archer, Nebraska. He was the oldest of the five sons and four daughters, born to the family.

On July 25, 1897 he married Emma Matilda Zamzow, daughter of Frank and Minnie Zamzow, pioneers of Merrick County. They established their home, three miles west of Archer, Nebraska, then known as the Charles Coolidge farm. In 1900, they moved to their permanent home and farm three miles south and one mile east of Palmer, Nebraska.

Twelve children were born to them, seven sons and five daughters: Louise, Mrs. Richard Weller of St. Paul, Nebraska; Leonard, (deceased, 1973); Irene, Mrs. Lafe Gilmont of Archer, Nebraska; Alice, Mrs. John Hettrich (deceased, 1980); Vernon, (deceased, 1924); Lawrence, of St. Paul, Nebraska; Harold, (deceased, 1968); Helen, Mrs. Gerald Green of Palmer, Nebraska; Donald, of Archer, Nebraska; Iris, Mrs. George DeBord of Lincoln, Nebraska; Clinton, of Palmer, Nebraska; John, of Hayward, California.

In 1946, John and Emma retired from the farm and purchased a home at the south edge of Palmer. Their son Clinton, remained on the farm and still



Mr. and Mrs. John W. Wegner

resides there.

John died September 23, 1947 and Emma died March 23, 1960. They are buried in Rose Hill cemetery at Palmer, Nebraska and their six sons were pallbearers for both funeral services.

At John's death, a tribute to the Wegners written by Fred Marsh, a life long friend, was published in the Central City Republican newspaper. It read:

"John and Emma belonged to that relatively, small class of people who, by spending an entire life in the same community, gave permanence and stability, to its social structure. Schools and other important institutions, largely owe their existence to such individuals. Born of pioneer parents, they inherited, in rich measure their rugged virtues and simple tastes.

A quiet simplicity, was a rule in the Wegners lives, and they impressed upon their children, many worthwhile things.

Music had a large part in the Wegner home, John and Emma sang often, their voices blended beautifully, and all of their children inherited this fine talent.

Would that the youth of today, find enjoyment in simple things, good books, fine music, warm friendships and other things of lasting qualities, was their wish for future generations." *Submitted by Iris Wegner DeBord*

WARREN & BEULAH WEGNER

Warren was born at Central City, April 17, 1919, the oldest son of Edward H. and Faye C. Wegner. He attended grade and high school locally and graduated with the class of 1937. His love of dramatics allowed him to gain state honors in 1936-1937. He spent one year at Nebraska Central College, following a summer at Michigan University at Ann Arbor, Michigan. He went on the road in the fall of 1939 for his father selling cemetery memorials. During World War II he served thirty-eight months, sixteen of which were overseas. He flew as a medic with the Third Emergency Rescue Squadron, a Fifth Air Force P.B.Y. squadron in the New Guinea and Philippine areas. Following the war, he returned home to join his father in the monument business, which had been established in 1919. A younger brother, Richard T. Wegner, had been killed in action during the war at Sauley, France.

He met Beulah K. Clausen in early 1946, and they were married in the Clausen home in Boelus, Nebraska, on June 22, 1946. The couple was married by Rev. O.W. Carroll on what turned out to be the Carroll's own wedding anniversary. To them were born four children. Candice Worreen Wegner, an R.N., was born April 6, 1947. Dick Edward Wegner was born August 11, 1948. Coral Ann Wegner was born April 26, 1954. Coral is married to Douglas Troester and they have two children: Gabriel and Kylie Leigh. Delton Conrad Wegner was born July 26, 1955.

While Warren and his father continued with the business, Beulah was active in the Methodist Church and Job's Daughters, holding several state offices in the lodge. A knowledgeable ceramist, she gave lessons for thirteen years in their home. After the death of his father in May 1949, Warren continued with the business, purchasing it from his

mother in 1951. Sons Dick and Delton joined the firm in the 1970's. Warren served on the city council in Central City 1961-3, and the cemetery board for ten years. He is a member of the KP and Masonic Lodges, and was a Commander of American Legion, Lone Tree Post #6, 1978-9. He is presently serving on the board of directors for the Nebraska Division of the Monument Builders of North America. *Submitted by Warren Wegner*

WILHELM WEGNER FAMILY

Wilhelm Frederick Wegner was born November 4, 1848 at Stoeven, in the province of Pomerania, Germany. He came to America in 1867 settling at Portahe, Wisconsin. Five years later he came to Merrick County, settling on a homestead eight and one half miles west and three miles north of Lone Tree, now Central City.



Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Wegner

On March 28, 1874 he was united in marriage to Charlotte Wilhemina Bertha Rudolf, daughter of Frederick and Louise (Buzz) Rudolf. There were eleven children in this family. They were: Helena (Lena), Mrs. Jacob Suck; Wilhemina (Minnie), Mrs. Jacob Ita; Herman; William; Albert; Bertha, Mrs. George Mundt; Martha, Mrs. Albert Suck; William; Ella, Mrs. Warren Riggs; Dorothea, Mrs. W.P. Hansen; Edward; Louis; and Herman who died at the age of fourteen.

Grandpa was converted in 1873, under the labors of Reverend Stellrecht, a missionary of the Evangelical Association. Due to his influence, a Sunday School was organized in the little school house called the Baker School in District #46 located on the south west corner of the farm where Dwayne Wegner now lives. He served as superintendent for thirty-five years and was a leader all his life. Many persons turned to him when they had a difficult decision to make. In 1916 he represented Nebraska as a Lay Delegate to the General Conference at San Francisco, California. Grandpa served on the Merrick County Board of Supervisors eleven years — 1911-1917; six years of which he was chairman of the board. It was during this time the Merrick County Court House was built and also the Lone Tree Monument was erected.

Uncle Willie, as he was called, was a man of sterling qualities who bravely and courageously faced obstacles and privations of pioneer life. He was a man very much devoted to his family and among his neighbors and friends. He was a leader among men in his surroundings. He was keenly intelligent and wise, a man of the world. He had in him the qualities of true greatness, for his aim in life was to serve others and the betterment of mankind.

Grandpa Wegner died June 6, 1920 at his home near Archer, the victim of pneumonia. Grandma died January 10, 1921. Both rest at the Zion Evangelical cemetery. *Submitted by Mildred Suck Rawlings*

WILLIAM WEGNER FAMILY

My mother, Bertha Rudolf, born in Giessen Collis Pommerary, Germany, came to America at the age of nine and found employment in the home of a wealthy family in Wisconsin.

Several years later, she met and married William Frederick Wegner who had come from Stoeven, Germany. He came to pioneer in this country for reasons of political freedom and security in 1867. They settled in Merrick County, west of Archer, on a homestead claim.

William Wegner became a friend in need to the many German settlers who came to this area to homestead. He helped them with language and legal problems and financial assistance.

All of this time, his family of eleven children was growing and his responsibilities in the community were multiplying. The children were: Helena (Suck); Wilhelmina (Ita); William; Herman; Albert; Bertha (Mundt); Martha (Suck); Ella (Riggs); Edward; Louis; and Dorothy (Hansen); all of whom contributed to the accomplishments of the family. He was instrumental in helping to organize and establish the Zion Evangelical Church west of Archer, and served as a county supervisor.

Our family was close-knit. We helped and taught each other. We got our early education at a country school, District #47. Our first years were the hardest as we had heard and spoken only German at home. The language used in school was English.

The men of the family would do a lot of hunting and fishing on the Loup River. That provided much of the meat supply for the family. Today, at age ninty-one, I still do not care for fish or wild game.

The boys and men of the family also gathered much of their fuel for the winter from the woods along the Loup River. Once some Indians appeared, causing them to leave their wood in a hurry and run for cover.

Our home was always open to visitors. Many travelers stopped to visit with my father and stay to dinner.

It was customary to have a guest room for unexpected guests. There were no hotels available in those days, so the room downstairs was reserved for visitors. It was called "preachers" room, as the traveling ministers most often used it. No matter how crowded the family was upstairs, the preacher's room was never used by the family.

I recall a famous guest who was a friend of my father's. The silver-tongued orator, William Jennings Bryan, was an occasional guest at our house. He was a candidate for President of the United States several times. A memorial monument now stands in his memory in Washington, D.C.

Often when visitors were at the dining table, Dora (Hansen), Martha (Suck), and I would get the giggles. Father would just raise his eyebrow to send us to the back room.

Most of my teenage years were spent working in the family circle and, when I was sixteen, my parents and I moved into Archer. My other brothers and sisters had married or gone to outside jobs. I clerked in the mercantile store of Archer.



Mr. and Mrs. William F. Wegner

My parents lived in town about fifteen years. William Wegner passed away on June 6, 1920, and my mother, Bertha, died June 10, 1921. *Submitted by Ella Wegner Riggs*

THE WELLS FAMILY

The Wells family lived in Merrick County, Nebraska, from the early 1870s to the late 1950s.

My father, Henry Alonzo Wells, born in 1861, in New York State, came west with his parents, the Henry Clark Wells family. Arriving in Merrick County in 1871, they settled on a homestead near Lone Tree (now Central City). In 1873, they moved to the Loup Valley, settling on a timber claim two miles north of the present town of Palmer, at Burlingame, so named because the post office was in the Burlingame home.

From 1874 to 1888, Grandfather Wells was the postmaster, and the office was located in his home. About 1904 he retired from farming, and they moved into Palmer.

My maternal grandparents, the Leveret Taylors, lived in Burlingame too. They came from Illinois when my mother, Anis, born in 1868, was a small child. They settled on a homestead adjoining the Wells' — so my mother and father met early in life.

Also from Illinois, my great grandparents, the Milton Taylors, and my grandaunt, Jane Taylor Place and family lived on nearby homesteads. In 1886, the Leveret Taylor family moved to Nance County.

In 1887, my father opened a general store in Palmer which he operated until 1919. He also managed the telephone company for many years. He was active in civic life, serving on the school board, village council, township board and as police judge.

In 1899, he and Anis Taylor married, and lived in Palmer the rest of their lives. Aunt Mary Wells lived there too most of her life, and my cousins during their early years — also, Uncle Charley Wells for many years.

My brothers, William and Robert, and I grew up there. We attended the Christian Church (where Father served as a board member), went to school, and graduated in due time. Each of us had "Miss Jo" Copeland as a beginning teacher.

William went on to college, and taught school a number of years. In 1929, he married Lucile Roberts. From 1933 until 1936, they lived in Palmer where the second of their four children was born. He retired in 1972 from the Department of Commerce Weather Bureau in Huron, South Dakota, where they now live.

Robert married Dorothy Wagner in 1931. They lived in Palmer, where he operated the Wells Service Station until 1943, when he was called into Service in World War II. In 1945, he was wounded in Leyte. Later, he managed an auto supply store in Grand Island until he retired.

In 1931, after college and teaching two years, I married Lynn Galloway and came to New York State — whence came my father so many years ago. Since Lynn's retirement from Eastman Kodak Company in 1968, we have become Florida residents, living there in the winters. One of our daughters and family lives in New York State, the other in Florida — a happy situation.

Each summer we drive to Nebraska, where I return for a brief visit in my home town, Palmer, in Merrick County. *Submitted by Elsa Wells Galloway*

BRAD WELLS FAMILY

Peggy Lou, daughter of Robert and Raymona Page Grigsby, was born at Central City, Nebraska, August 11, 1960 and has spent all of her life on the College Section northwest of Central. A true farm gal, I must mention her dogs, Frostie and Smokie, to make her story complete. Peggy started to school at District #8 with brothers and attended there until the school burned, then all went to Central City Public Schools. Peggy's brothers are Steven, Ronald and Ricky. While in school, Peggy was in Brownies and Girl Scouts, which she enjoyed very much. A girlfriend's family took her along on a ski trip to Colorado while in Junior High, and the Girl Scout Troop took a great trip to Yellowstone National



Brad Wells Family — 1981

Park, which was sponsored by Neil and Mary Eriksen and Dave and Jan McHargue.

While in high school, Peggy met Brad Wells. They attended the same church. Brad is the son of Marlin and Lena Loates Wells, a nurse, and was born at Grand Island, Nebraska, March 1, 1958. Marlin was a construction worker, which took the family to Colorado, then to Valentine, Nebraska, where Brad started to school, moving later to O'Neil and North Platte before coming to Central City Schools when Brad was a third-grader. Riverside Park was home for the family. Brad has one brother, Brent.

Peggy and Brad graduated from Central City High School. They were married October 15, 1976, at the Christian Church by Melvin Zichek, who married Peggy's parents there on October 15, 1950.

Brad and Peggy's only home has been the Lee and Lillian Van Zant home place south of Nebraska Christian High School (the old Nebraska Central College). It is owned by Peggy's parents and has been remodeled to make a nice home for the family.

Peggy and Brad are the parents of three children. These young people are sixth-generation to call Central City and Merrick County, Nebraska, home. Troy Lee was born in 1977, a red-haired, green-eyed young man. His sister, Dusty Ray, was born in 1979, a blond blue-eyed beauty, and Aaron Alan was born May of 1980. He has darker hair and blue eyes. They also have their special pets, namely Miss Priss, Val, and Digger.

Just this year, 1981, Brad and Peggy and their little ones enjoyed a Well's family reunion in Denver, Colorado.

Brad and Peggy are members of the Christian Church, and Brad is treasurer of the Platte Valley Wranglers Horse Club. Brad likes to enter the Demolition Derby at the Merrick County Fair. He is a cowboy at heart, so trains horses for his dad when time allows. Both Peggy and Brad help the Grigsbys at irrigating time. Brad is employed by the Gas Department of the City of Central City, Nebraska. *Submitted by Raymona Grigsby*

MARLIN WELLS FAMILY

Marlin Wells came into the world at Palmer, Nebraska on December 12, 1929. His mother was the former Della Mae Dunn, daughter of LeRoy and Lottie Dunn and his father was Lester Wells son of Samual and Martha Wells of Denman. He has one brother, Sam, of Arvada, Colorado.

Lena Fern Loats was born at Gary, South Dakota on October 14, 1922. She came to Nebraska in 1954 with several friends and worked at the Veterans Hospital in Grand Island, Nebraska. It was while working there she met Marlin when he was a patient. They were married on September 11, 1955. They have two sons, Brad Lee and Brent Alan. Brad born March 1, 1958 is married to the former Peggy Grigsby and they are the parents of three children — Troy, Dusty, and Aaron. Brent is still at home. Brent was born July 19, 1959.

Marlin spent his early childhood on a farm near St. Libory until about the age of five when the family moved to Denman on the Wells homestead on Elm Island — (Denman was named after Marlin's great-great uncle Albert Denman who homesteaded at Denman). In 1943 the Wells family moved to a farm near Chapman, Nebraska, where they lived until Lester Wells passed away in 1964. Della Mae married Arnold Frank in January of 1979 and they are living on a farm near Chapman, Nebraska.

Marlin was inducted into the service during his senior year and spent two years in the service. He was with 716 military police battalion CID. Following his service time he started working for W.B. Knight. In 1951, Marlin purchased the blacksmith shop in Chapman from Julius Grosch and operated this for about three years, then went back to work for Knight Brothers until 1959. The next two years were spent in Denver, Colorado where he worked for Winter-Wiss Company. Once again in 1962 the family returned to Nebraska and Marlin worked for Knight Brothers. We moved about until 1968 when we purchased a cabin at Riverside Park near Central City, Nebraska.

The next year they purchased approximately fifteen acres deeded land that belonged to the Reeves estate, and in 1979 built a home on the land.



Marlin and Lena Wells

The family are members and attend the Christian Church. They also belong to the Platte Valley Wranglers' Horse Club, who use the Wells' cabin for meetings. Lena is a member of the Merrickettes and is employed at the Veterans' Hospital. Marlin is employed by York County and sells Travel A Long horse trailers. He also enjoys his horses and mules. *Submitted by Lena Wells*

WELTON-DAVIS-BRUNK

Elizabeth Welton was born in 1837 in Cuyahoga County, Ohio; later moved to Williams County, Ohio. At age sixteen, she married Walter M. Davis, to which union were born: Jason, Joe, and Ellsworth. Mr. Davis died at Camp Chase, Ohio, in 1865, while in service with the Union Army in the Civil War.

William Brunk (1835-1914) was a Congressional Medal recipient after service with Company B/53rd Illinois Infantry. In 1867, Elizabeth married William Brunk. To this marriage, Alice Elvira was born on March 5, 1868.

Three years later, in 1871, the family, consisting of Elizabeth and William, Elizabeth's three sons, Jason, Joe, and Ellsworth, and small daughter, Alice, moved to Clarks, Nebraska, where they had obtained a "soldier's right" claim to a quarter section of land three miles east of Clarks. The family endured the many hardships of a new country. Their first home was a "dug out" close to the Platte River. The children became friends with Indians. Evidently an abundance of walnut trees grew up and bore black walnuts for the families to gather.

Viva Davis Whetstine remembers how when visiting Grandpa Brunk's farm, she sat on the car floor with her feet on the running board of the Dart Coupe, which took them to the grove of trees where they picked up the black walnuts.

Elizabeth and William retired from the farm to the Village of Clarks. William Brunk died in 1914. Elizabeth died January 3, 1921. Both are buried in the Clarks Cemetery after funeral services were held in the Methodist Church there. *Submitted by Stanley Torpin*

DESCENDANTS OF ELIZABETH WELTON DAVIS BRUNK

1. Jason — Daughter, Eldora, married a Mr. Abel, had a son, Kenneth. Mr. Abel died. Eldora married Mr. Kellogg.

2. Joe — Son, Newell, daughter, Inez, married William Irwin, who died in 1918. Inez and William had a daughter, Wilma (Allen) now of San Diego, California. Later married C.A. Larson at Lincoln, Nebraska. After his death she moved to San Diego, California.

3. Ellsworth Elmer Davis (1862-1937) married Eva Luella Headley (1864-1949) in 1884 in Hilsdale County, Michigan. Both were born in Williams County, Ohio N.W. To this union were born: Lena Luella Davis (1886-1919), Walter Earl Davis (1894-1963), Viva Irene Davis (1896-——, Mary Helen Davis (1899-1901), buried in Clarks Cemetery. Ellsworth, with his parents, had moved to Clarks in 1871, was a barber. He served as Mayor of the town for some years.

I. Lena Luella Davis married in 1906, Homer E. Chandler in Clarks, Nebraska. A son, Gerald (1909-1973). The mother, Lena, died at childbirth.

II. Walter Earl Davis (1894-1963) married Florence Hansen on February 22, 1918 in Clarks. Children: Walter Hansen (1922). Married Virginia Seacrest in Lincoln, 1950. (They are now divorced). Adrian Paul (1930), nicknamed Jack, married Alene Bredemeier in Lincoln in 1953. They live in Garland, Texas. Daphne (1928) deceased, as an infant.

Walter Earl Davis, after his marriage, lived in Clarks until 1933, when the couple moved to Kearney.

In Clarks, Mr. Davis worked as a signal man for the Union Pacific railroad. In Kearney he continued work with the U.P.

III. Viva Davis — Vess Whetstine. Viva Irene Davis married on September 17, 1919 in Clarks, Sylvester Benjamin Whetstine of Washington, Kansas.

Mr. Whetstine took over the barbering business from his father-in-law, Ellsworth Davis. Both Mr. and Mrs. Whetstine were active in church and community affairs. Mr. Whetstine directed the Methodist Church Choir and his wife was the pianist.

Children: Virginia Evelyn (1920), Margaret Helen (1924).

Both graduated from Clarks High School. Later the parents moved to Grand Island where they worked and remained until Mr. Whetstine's death.

Viva later made her home with her daughter, Margaret, in Port Arthur, Texas.

I. Virginia married Alfred E. Lorenzen in Hastings. Son — Stephen Alfred, married Diane Echard in 1970 — Son — Kurt Douglas (1973). Mr. Lorenzen died in 1976 in Lubbock, Texas. Virginia married Edward Ross Smith. They now live in McCook, Nebraska.

II. Margaret Helen married Clifford McGreevy, Jr. in 1945 in Grand Island. Home — Port Arthur, Texas. Daughters: 1. Mary H. married James E. Pryor in 1969. Daughter, Laurie Ann (1972). 2. Janice I. married Thomas S. Gratz in 1973. *Submitted by Stanley Torpin*

WILHELM WENN

Wilhelm Wenn was born in Holstein, Germany on October 4, 1880. He arrived in New York City on November 26, 1907, traveling directly to his Uncle Paul Frauen's farm near Lockwood in Merrick County, where he lived and was employed. Claus Franzenburg traveled with him.

In April 1908, Wilhelm's fiancee, Cacilie Franzenburg, from Holstein, Germany, arrived at the Frauen farm. Cacilie and Claus Franzenburg were sister and brother. Wilhelm and Cacilie attended the same grade school in Holstein. They were raised on farms in Germany just two miles apart. Eight days after her arrival here, she and Wilhelm Wenn were married on April 18, 1908, in Messiah Lutheran Church parsonage in Grand Island. They lived on a Frauen farm three miles south and one east of Worms for a few years before moving to a farm east of Grand Island in Merrick County. Before a house was built, they lived in a granary. Clarence and Louise Frauen Benson now reside on this farm.

In 1914, Wilhelm purchased a farm five miles east of Grand Island in Merrick County where they resided the rest of their lives. Claus Frauen lived with them there. Marx and Sue Schutt and Robert and Mona Schutt Dubas and their families now have residences on this farm.

Wilhelm Wenn was a prominent farmer, being one of the first to put down an irrigation well in 1928, and owning the first milking machine and first silos in the area. He raised wheat, corn, and alfalfa. He also operated a large dairy or milking business, and Mrs. Wenn bottled milk and delivered it to Leibsack Grocery Store in Grand Island.

Due to the large volume of work on this farm, Wilhelm and Cacilie sent tickets to Germany and provided guardianship for his nephew, Henry Schuett, her nephew, Emil Schutt, her niece, Alma Franzenburg, and a friend, John Pruess, to come to America. They arrived in June 1923. Henry, Emil and Alma worked for the Wenns and John Pruess worked for Floyd Tracy, near Chapman. (Floyd's wife was Marie Frauen, also from Germany.) After a time, they found their mates here and Wilhelm hired other young folks.

Wilhelm did custom threshing and custom corn binding, and always had at least one or more hired hands for farming and milking. He was an aggressive type of person and was always ready to try new machinery and farm operations. His first tractor was a large Mogul. In 1938, he lost an arm in a cornsheller.



Cacilie and Wilhelm Wenn — 1930

Mr. and Mrs. Wenn celebrated their golden anniversary in June, 1958, with an open house at their farm home. They had no children. Mrs. Wenn died June 7, 1967. Mr. Wenn remained in his home. Mr. and Mrs. Emil Schutt moved near the Wenn's from Central City and helped take care of them. He spent only ten months in a rest home. He passed away on June 16, 1973, at the age of ninety-two years. They are buried in Grand Island City Cemetery. *Submitted by Henry Schuett and Emil Schutt*



Seated — Frank and Jennie West. 44th Wedding Anniversary December 1941 — 3 generations

FRANK L. WEST FAMILY

Going back seven generations, I find Frank Leslie West is a descendant of Francis West who came to America from England in 1634 and established residence at Duxbury, Massachusetts. He married Susanna Soule, whose father came on the Mayflower in 1620.

The following generations are: William West; Ebenezer West; Nathan West; Anson West I; Anson West II who was born in Minerva, New York November 25, 1824 and was Frank West's father. He married Ann Johnson December 31, 1848. Ann was born October 25, 1829 in Madison County, New York. They moved to Fairfield, Iowa in 1856. Anson II died July 14, 1908. Ann died June 12, 1910.

Ten children were born to them, Frank being next to the youngest.

Frank West was born near Fairfield, Iowa March 31, 1872, and died at his home April 27, 1954 from a heart attack.

After country school he attended Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa one year, then farmed.

Frank married Jennie Dana in Fairfield December 14, 1897. Jennie was born July 3, 1875 near Fairfield to George and Harriet Wolf Dana. Their ancestors came from England Wales. Jennie West was the oldest resident of Clarks at her death July 5, 1968, two days after her ninety-third birthday. Frank and Jennie started their married life on their farm near Fairfield, Iowa. To this union two daughters were born, Hazel Hattie June 1, 1902 and Mary Viola March 8, 1904.

Selling their farm in 1905 they came to Nebraska, purchasing 320 acres northwest of Clarks. Their occupation was farming, raising hogs and Hereford cattle. In 1914 they built the first modern house in the community, with a basement, furnace, running water and its own plant for electric lights. Selling their farm to retire, they moved into Clarks March, 1919. In 1921, they bought a home on West Amity Street where they resided the rest of their lives.

In April, 1919 Mr. West was asked to work at the Farmers Union Elevator, Feed and Coal Company, soon advancing to manager and bookkeeper which position he held for twenty-five years.

The family became members of the Methodist Church in 1919. Mr. West served as trustee many years and assisted in the fund raising and planning for a new church after the old church burned November 30, 1947.

Mr. West helped organize The Bank of Clarks becoming its first President from January 1937 to June 1950. He served on the town board several years and was active in the Odd Fellow Lodge.

Mrs. West was active in the Woman's Society of her church and of the Rebekah Lodge.

Their daughters, Hazel and Mary, received their education in District #25 rural school, Clarks High School and Kearney State, then taught school.

Hazel married Frederick (Fritz) Dittmer March 1, 1923. He was born January 2, 1894 and died September 9, 1978. Their children are Wilma and Kenneth.

Mary married Hubert Burruss December 24, 1923. He was born March 12, 1899 and died December 27, 1970. Their son is Jay Robert.

Mr. and Mrs. West, Frederick Dittmer, and Hubert Burruss are all laid to rest in the Clarks Cemetery. *Submitted by Mrs. Mary West Burruss*

ELGIN & KATHRYN WHITE

Elgin O. and Kathryn K. White will be remembered as very active community members.

Long-time editor and publisher of the Republican-Nonpareil, Mr. White was born August 16, 1907, at North Platte, the son of Arthur and Katie White. The family moved to Central City during his elementary school years. He was a sixth-grader when he became a printer's "devil" for the Central City Nonpareil. By the time he was in high school he had worked himself up to the job of reporter-advertising salesman and had learned the operation of the linotype and job presses.

Elgin married Kathryn Kerr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Kerr, August 3, 1929.

With editor Bob Rice, he worked at the Central City Republican through the 1920's and 30's and into the 40's when he and his wife, also owned and operated the former DeLancey Cafe.

Kathryn, a very active P.E.O. member, served as state president 1970-71.

She was a teacher in the Central City school system for many years.

In 1950, the Whites purchased the Central City Republican from Lowell Smith, and in 1953 consolidated the Nonpareil with the Republican, continuing as Editor-Publisher until October 1, 1974, when he sold the business to Garland Stephenson and Darrell Willoughby.

Known for his droll humor, Elgin also turned his journalistic talents to the support of many community projects, two of which were the construction of the municipal swimming pool and the Litzenberg Memorial County Hospital. An ardent golfer, he conceived the idea of staging the "longest hole" contest down the Platte River bed to raise funds for the city pool.

In addition to working with their large, colonial-style home, now owned by Tom and Maril Bice, the Whites both took an active interest in aviation, receiving their private pilot's licenses after the age of fifty. Both also played piano and organ, and in earlier days Elgin played with dance bands and accompanied a male chorus for several years in Central City.

The Whites were active members of the United Methodist Church. Kathryn served as organist for many years.

Other affiliations for Elgin were Elks Lodge 604 Grand Island, Tehama Shrine Temple of Hastings, Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben, Moolah Oasis Temple of

St. Louis, Missouri, Lone Tree Masonic Lodge No. 36, the Royal Arch Masons, and the Royal Order of Jesters of Hastings Court 152.

A nephew of Kathryn's, Bill Kerr, as a small lad made his home with the Whites following the death of his father, and was guided by his uncle and aunt to manhood. He and his wife, Liz, now live in Chicago.

Due to poor health, Kathryn entered the Long Term Care Unit at the Litzenberg Memorial Hospital June 1, 1978, where she now resides.

Elgin died suddenly at his home November 6, 1978. *Submitted by Republican-Nonpariel Staff*

WHITED FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Franklin (Frank) Whited and three small sons came to Merrick County from Hancock, Iowa, in 1904 and settled west of Silver Creek, Nebraska on a farm. Their three sons were: Vernon born in 1897; Dale born in 1898; and Delbert born in 1900. In 1905, Frank's sister, Fannie Whited and their mother also came from Hancock, Iowa, and settled in Clarks. Fannie later married John Brunson, both having died in the 1950's. Grandma Whited passed away in 1922. A brother, Robert Whited, also came to Nebraska in 1906, and lived north of Clarks. He married Mamie Snodgrass of Clarks. They left Nebraska about 1917.

Frank and Alice Whited and boys were active members of the United Methodist Church in Silver Creek.

After living on the farm a few years they moved to Silver Creek, where Frank did draying. In 1919, Alice died.

Vernon, the oldest son, married Grethel Beck of Atkinson in 1922, and lived in Wheeler County, Silver Creek, Palmer, Albion and Atkinson, Nebraska. Vernon farmed, worked as a Merrick County maintenance man, electrician, and still works part time in the sale barn at Atkinson. They had two children, Lorene (Mrs. Joe Miller) of Derby, Kansas, and Donald, who is married and lives in Lebanon, Oregon.

Dale married Nita Buchholz of Silver Creek. To them was born one son, Robert Dale, who lives in Portland, Oregon. Dale and Nita lived in Silver Creek, Columbus, and Norfolk, where Dale did electrical work and was superintendent of Consumers in Norfolk many years. Dale passed away in 1964.

Delbert married Sally Taczek from Platte Center. They lived in Columbus, North Platte, and Albion, where Delbert was in electrical work and worked with Northwestern Public Service Company and Consumers for years. To them were born five children: Norma, (Mrs. Jim Delvo) of Denver, Colorado; Connie Whited of Denver, Colorado; Mary (Mrs. Don Krohn) of Prairie Village, Kansas; Lois (Mrs. Dale Kruse) of Albion, Nebraska; and a son, Jon Whited of Dearborn, Michigan. Delbert passed away in 1980.

In 1920, Frank was married to Myrtle Harris. They lived in and around Silver Creek with the exception of one year they lived on a ranch in Wheeler County. In 1923 they adopted a daughter, Della May. Frank, who had been in ill health for many years, died in 1937. Myrtle married Myron Ward in 1952, and retired after teaching school thirty-five years in Silver Creek and surrounding country schools. Myrtle passed away in 1960.

Della May was married to Gerald Schott in 1942. They lived on a farm northeast of Clarks. To them were born two daughters: Linda (Mrs. Jerry Ksiazek) Rockford, Illinois; Genelle, (Mrs. Robert Clements) Herman, Nebraska and a son, Gordon, of Clarks. Gerald died in 1970. In 1972, Della May married Alonzo Ksiazek and lives on a farm near Clarks. Della May has ten grandchildren. *Submitted by Della May Ksiazek*

WILLIAM WHITTEMORE

William A. Whittemore was born July 27, 1871 at Bowens Prairie, later renamed Harpers Ferry located on the Iowa and Illinois boundary. At the age of one and one half years, he came to Nebraska with his parents and baby sister by covered wagon with several other families, including Bushes, Geons, Potees and Millsaps also several other families. They came to claim land grants from the government to veterans of the Civil War.



William Whittemore

The Whittemores located several miles east and south of the present town of Hordville. They lived on the farm enduring many hardships of the early days. They moved to Long Pine, Nebraska later on for a few years. While there they went through the blizzard of 1888. Finally they returned to the farm where the children finished their schooling. William entered Gates College at Neligh for one year. He had to give this up because of ill health in the family. He remained on the farm until 1900 when he came to Merrick County and Central City.

William joined a partnership with John LeRoy who was in the dray business, later on buying out from LeRoy. He delivered mail from the post office to and from post office to depot for a few years along with his deliveries from depot to the stores along with delivering coal to various homes in the city and also baggage to and from homes to the depots in Central City.

He continued delivering freight by team and wagon until 1919 when he purchased a Model T Ford truck using it until July 1948 where he was forced to retire because of ill health. In all these years the weather never stopped him.

On July 15, 1908 he was united in marriage to Mary O'Connor Sherwood. They established a home where Eddie Larson now lives. Along with his trucking he raised gardens and on eight and one half acres he raised corn, alfalfa and many other crops, doing most of the harvesting when he was through his hauling at day's end.

After his illness and hospitalization in 1948, the local merchants headed by Howard Capels, our local Safeway manager at that time, presented him with a monetary gift in appreciation of his forty-eight years service to the public.

Bill, as he was commonly known by everyone, passed away in February 1949. He was a good friend and neighbor always helping someone unfortunate. He was preceded in death by one stepson, Francis Sherwood in 1927. His wife, Mary, passed away December 1, 1957. They left to mourn their death, a daughter Marcia (Mrs. John McClay), a son-in-law, John McClay, three grandchildren, Mary, Florence and Paul and many relatives and friends. *Submitted by Mrs. John (Marcia) McClay*

THE WIDMAN FAMILY

John Widman was born in 1831 in Germany. He came to America and served with Company E, 31st Indiana Infantry in the Civil War.

Rachel Malinda Givens was born to Jackson C. and Mary Jane Givens in Mount Vernon, Indiana on July 16, 1843.

John and Rachel Malinda were married April 10, 1862.

They moved with their three children Joel Thomas, Eliza Adell (later married to Daniel Hudnall), and James to Nebraska in 1871 and homesteaded in Merrick County four miles north of Chapman on the land now owned by Vernie Rice.

Franklin Embree Widman was born on August 31, 1872 on a place near the Platte River east of Chapman where the family had gone to spend the winter. Two more sons, Silas Jackson and Guy Willie, completed the family.

Franklin Embree married Rose Hannah Corcilius June 12, 1901. They farmed on various farms in Merrick County until March 1919. The father, mother, six sons, and four daughters bought and moved to a 200 acre farm which the government had turned over to the Union Pacific Railroad, and William Huxford's father had bought for $320 in 1875, and William got from his father in 1878 for $800.

Here they farmed, endured the droughts, depression, and cheap prices until 1943 when the parents retired and moved to Central City.

The children attended District #12 and Central City High School. Eight graduated from high school. Work was plentiful at home, and with music, church work, and sports everyone was busy.

Samuel Embree after his schooling, worked at home helping with the farm work. He later worked as an engineer mainly on threshing and grading crews for William Knight, Sr.

Edna I. taught rural schools, attended summer schools, and went to Nebraska Central College, graduating with an A.B. degree in 1932 with majors in English, history, and Spanish.

Charles Franklin helped at home for several years after graduation. He did additional farm work when he could be spared at home.

Rose Alice graduated and worked in a drug store-postoffice in Hordville. She was a Northwestern Bell Telephone operator in Central City.

Perna Mary graduated and worked for the Bell Telephone Company.

Earl Corcilius helped at home after getting his



Frank E. Widman, Sr. and Children — 1952

diploma. He was active in 4-H work. In 1935 he moved to Laramie, Wyoming, and worked at the Rosedale Dairy.

Frances Cecilia graduated, then worked as assistant manager of the Central City Cooperative Creamery, and worked later in the ACP office.

Frank E. Jr. after graduation, operated the Standard Oil Company filling station located where Hesselgesser Motor Company now stands.

Walter Wayne after finishing school, worked with his father on the farm.

David graduated, then helped his father and Walter with the farm work.

THE WIDMAN CHILDREN

Embree married Iva Claire Harris on October 6, 1926. He worked for Bishop Hardware Company for fourteen years. After leaving Central City, he worked for Hinkle and Joyce Wholesale Hardware Company in Lincoln and North Platte as clerk, printer, and salesman.

In 1960, they moved to Grand Junction, Colorado where he was a toolman at Mesa College until he retired in 1970 and returned to Central City. He died August 15, 1973.

Edna taught two years at District 12. She taught high schools at Social Center (near Columbus), Chapman, Fullerton, and Central City, serving as high school principal for several years. She attended several universities for additional training, and retired in 1968.

Charles married Lola Bell Woodward on February 12, 1930. They had two daughters, Rachel Marie (deceased) and Rebecca Ione, now of Lincoln.

They farmed near Central City until 1948 when they bought and moved to a farm in the Cairo-Wood River vicinity in Hall County. In 1974 they retired and moved back to Central City.

Alice and Charley Hammons were married April 4, 1926 and farmed near Chapman. On February 11, 1929 a daughter, Wilma Ruth, was born. Alice died February 18, and the baby March 13.

Perna and Hubert Hammons were married March 31, 1929. They had a daughter, Marilyn Joanne, now of Indiana. After farming in Merrick County until 1946, they moved to Anderson, Indiana and joined the Hammons Plumbing Company. In 1962 they bought and moved to a farm near Silver Lake, where they now live.

Earl and Elsie Susan Conners were married June 14, 1936 in Laramie, Wyoming. They had two sons, Edwin Earl, now of California, and Roy Franklin, now of Arizona. They operated the Rosedale Dairy, farmed and worked for the city of Laramie. Earl retired in 1976. They moved to Lander, Wyoming and now live there.

Frances married Evvard Turno Chader on October 30, 1945. They farmed near Hordville then bought and moved to the Pete DeMoss farm near Central City in 1949. They had one son, Harold Widman Chader, who now lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Frank, Jr. married Fern Eleanor Campbell on April 9, 1938. After farming in Hamilton and Merrick Counties, they bought a farm east of Chapman. They had three children, Norman Ray (deceased), Darrell Lee, now of Chapman, and Geraldine Ann of Waverly. Frank and Fern moved to Central City.

Walter served in World War II from May 1, 1942 to October 1945 with Company C of 40th Engineers. He saw service in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Southern France.

He helped farm, worked for the State Game Commission, Missouri Valley Construction Company, and Grand Island Ordnance Plant.

David served in World War II from August 1, 1942 to December 1945. He served on aircraft carrier USS Solomon in the Atlantic and South Atlantic Ocean. He moved on the home place in 1946, bought it in 1961, and lives there.

DARRELL WIDMAN FAMILY

Darrell Lee Widman was born October 8, 1941 in Central City, Nebraska. His parents are Frank E. Widman Jr. and Fern Eleanor (Campbell) Widman.

He attended elementary school in Central City, Marquette, and District #3 in Merrick county. Darrell graduated from Central City High School in 1960 and attended Kearney State College and also the University of Nebraska.

In February 1965, Darrell enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He attended service schools, then was assigned to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron One (VQ-1) at Atsugi, Japan. Out of this home base, Darrell served in Japan, Philippines, Okinawa, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Vietnam, and aboard USS Enterprise and USS Constellation. Darrell flew 140 reconnaissance missions in EA-3B and EC-121 aircraft in Vietnam, earning Air Crewman Wings, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with two stars, National Defense Medal, Navy Unit Citation Medal and Five Air Medals. Then five weeks after being discharged in February 1969, the EC-121 crew that Darrell flew with was shot down by North Korean Migs (not North Vietnamese Migs). There were no survivors from the thirty-one man crew.

In 1969, Darrell started farming with his father near Chapman on the farm place that was purchased in 1949.

Then in 1970, Darrell married Twila Mae Brokaw. She was born April 18, 1948 in Osmond, Nebraska to the parents of Leslie and Clara Brokaw. Her parents farmed near Plainview before buying a farm southwest of Norfolk.

She attended District #75 school in Madison County for six years. Then after moving into town in 1959, she continued her education in Norfolk until moving to Central City in January 1965 where she graduated from high school in 1966.

Darrell and Twila have three children. Lisa Ann was born December 30, 1971. Amy Sue was born May 29, 1974 and Kristi Lea was born June 11, 1977.

Lisa and Amy are presently attending elementary school in Central City.

In 1976, Darrell with his father, Frank, started a popcorn processing business called Widman Popcorn Company that is being operated with the farming operation. *Submitted by the Widmans*

GORDON & PATRICIA WIECK

Gordon Peter and Patricia Ann (Jepson) Wieck have farmed one half mile South and one half mile east of Worms, Nebraska since March 1971.

Gordon was born August 24, 1945 in Grand Island, Nebraska to Oscar Walter and Marie Margaret (Schoenbeck) Wieck. He grew up on a dairy farm one mile North of Worms with one older brother — Danny. Gordon was baptized September 16, 1945, attended school and was confirmed May 24, 1959 in Zion Lutheran Church and School, Worms, Nebraska.

Patty was born October 8, 1947 in St. Paul, Nebraska to Andrew Malven Christian and Marie Delia (Silk) Jepson. She was baptized May 30, 1948 in St. John's Lutheran Church, Cushing, Nebraska. The church burned to the ground in January 1960 because of furnace problems. Patty was the fourth child in a family of four sisters and one brother — Shirley (Wohlers), Jim, Sally (Linden), Linda (Helzer) and Kathy (Glause). Her father was a carpenter and all the children were raised on an acreage one fourth mile east of Cushing. She attended grade-school at District #122 in Cushing and was confirmed in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Nebraska on May 20, 1962.



Gordon and Patricia Wieck Family

Gordie and Pat met when they were both attending Palmer High School. Following graduation in 1963, Gordie attended Grand Island School of Business, moved to Omaha, Nebraska and was employed during the next seven years in the offices of several trucking companies. Graduated in 1965, Pat lived in Grand Island and was employed as a telephone operator at Northwestern Bell. They started dating in 1966 and were married June 4, 1967 in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Nebraska by Rev. Lowell Hemken. They lived in Omaha four years during which time Bradley Alan was born on November 12, 1968. Following the death of Gordie's father, they moved to the farm near Worms in 1971 so Gordie could farm with his brother. Two daughters were born in Grand Island — Nicole Heather on December 19, 1972 and Andrea Marie on October 14, 1976. They built a new house on their farm in 1978. They are members of Zion Lutheran Church, Worms where Pat is active in Dorcas Ladies Aid, Gordie as Parish Board Chairman and Voters Association and both in Parent-Teachers League and Aid Association for Lutherans. All of the family are big sports fans. Gordie is an active softball player, enjoys hunting and working with the Palmer Little League Baseball team and the Worms grade-school basketball team. When she is not trying to keep up with her family Pat enjoys working with ceramics, gardening, reading, sewing and crafts. She is a member of the Cheerie Center Extension Club and has served on the Merrick County Extension Council several times. Bradley and Nicole attend Zion Lutheran School, Worms and are members of the Jr. Farmhands 4-H Club (the same 4-H club their father was active in starting in 1956). When they can, the family enjoys fishing together as a summer pastime. *Submitted by Pat Wieck*

OSCAR & MARIE WIECK

Oscar Walter Wieck was born February 6, 1912 to Peter and Wiebke Dorothea (Hargens) Wieck on a farm three miles Northeast of Worms, Nebraska. He was baptized March 31, 1912 in Zion Lutheran Church, Worms. Oscar grew up on the farm with five sisters — Emma, Ella (Dunn), Hilda (Manning), Helen (Garbe), and LaVerna (May) and four brothers — Frank, Alfred, Raynold, and Lawrence. He attended the school three and one half miles north of Worms known as District #45 and later attended Zion Lutheran School, Worms. He was confirmed May 23, 1926 in Zion Lutheran Church, Worms, where he was a lifetime member. At the age of 14 years he suffered from a hip separation and was in a body cast for about 3 months. As a young man he enjoyed playing baseball, kittenball and hunting. In 1938 he moved to the farm one mile north of Worms formerly owned by Max Wegner. (The farm Marie presently lives on).

Oscar met Marie Schoenbeck in 1936 when she was called to teach in Zion Lutheran School, Worms. They were united in marriage on February 26, 1942 in Zion Lutheran Church, Tobias, Nebraska by Rev. Schrein.

Marie Margaret Schoenbeck was born July 26, 1912 to Ernest and Caroline (Jordening) Schoenbeck on a farm five miles West of Western Nebraska. She was the fourth child in a family of seven children — Henry, Esther (Bartles), Carl, Arthur, Ted and Lucille (Meyer). Marie was baptized August 11, 1912, attended school and was confirmed in April of 1927 in Zion Lutheran Church School, Tobias, Nebraska. Marie graduated from Western High School, attended the University of Nebraska, Lincoln and taught five years in rural schools in Saline County. She then came to Worms; while teaching here she boarded four years with the teacher P.E. Frese family and one year with John and Erna Helzer.

Two sons were born to Oscar and Marie — Danny Dean on May 19, 1944 and Gordon Peter on August 24, 1945.

Marie attended Kearney College and resumed



Oscar and Marie Wieck — 1967

her teaching at Gage Valley School from 1960-1967. Oscar managed a dairy farm. He remodeled a grade A dairy barn in 1948 and operated it until 1965 when it burned down. A new grade A dairy barn was built and used until 1975.

As a family they were great sports fans, enjoyed fishing, hunting, ballgames and were active in the Jr. Farmhands 4-H club.

Oscar died April 15, 1970 at the age of fifty-eight. Burial was in the Zion Lutheran Church cemetery, Worms.

Marie continues to live on the farm that her sons now farm. In 1975 she took a geriatric course and was on staff at Coolidge Center in Palmer from 1976-1980. She is a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Worms, Dorcas Ladies Aid, Altar Guild, Quilting group, Sunday School Recorder and enjoys several card clubs. She keeps busy in the summer with her gardening, enjoys traveling (a trip to Europe in 1975 was very rewarding) and does needlework. *Submitted by Pat Wieck*

PETER & WIEBKE WIECK

Peter Wieck was born December 17, 1867 in Alt-Bennebeck, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, a son of Franz and Margaret (Hendricksen) Wieck. He had two brothers — Franz and John; and two sisters — Tena (Schroeder) and Margaret (Siek). He received his education and grew to manhood in his native country. His father was a farmer. In March of 1893 at the age of twenty-six he emigrated to America and worked on the Thomas Holthorf farm near Malmo, Nebraska. He then worked on a farm near Grand Island, Nebraska where he met his future bride.

Wiebke Dorothea Hargens was born November 29, 1875 in Marne, Dittmarche, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany to Peter and Margaretha (Schultz) Hargens. She had five sisters — Anna (Wieck), Mary (Luebbe), Katherine (Busch), Mini (Schipman) and Margaret (Schipman). Their father was also a farmer. The family came to America in 1881 when Wiebke was five, settling on a farm near Grand Island. She was employed at the Liederkranz in Grand Island as a young woman.

Peter and Wiebke were married in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Gemeinde (Congregation) in Grand Island on March 29, 1895 by Rev. Fred Gapfert. At that time they moved to a farm in Merrick county — three miles northeast of Worms. They moved into a sod house that was on the farm and several years later built a house. They farmed and made their home there for forty-five years. Their son Lawrence and his wife Lucille live there now.

Ten children born to Peter and Wiebke during their time on the farm were — Frank Henry Reimer born August 31, 1896 and died July 8, 1959; Emma Margaret born January 26, 1898; Ella Katherine (Dunn) born May 11, 1899; Alfred Peter born August 20, 1901 and died February 6, 1969; Hilda Marie (Manning) born May 19, 1904 and died July 19, 1970; Helen Elfrieda (Garbe) born August 23, 1905; Raynold John born July 31, 1908 and died December 12, 1936; Oscar Walter born February 6, 1912 and died April 15, 1970; Lawrence Herman born March 5, 1914 and LaVerna Alvina (May) born July 5, 1920.

Peter was baptized January 8, 1868 and confirmed March 18, 1883 in the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Kropp, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. He was one of the earliest members of Zion Lutheran Church at Worms.

Wiebke was baptized as a Lutheran in Germany and was confirmed in the Zion Lutheran Church, Worms on February 4, 1900.

They retired in 1940 and moved to Grand Island.

On March 29, 1945 they celebrated their golden anniversary at their home in Grand Island.

Peter Wieck died September 17, 1949 at the age of 81 years in Grand Island.

Wiebke continued to live in the family home with a daughter Emma. She died at the age of ninety on December 1, 1965. Burial of both was in the Zion Lutheran Church, Worms Cemetery. *Submitted by Pat Wieck*



Peter and Wiebke Wieck — 1895

AMALIA WIEGERT FAMILY

Amalia J. Niemoth Wiegert was born January 8, 1900, to Frank T. and Alida Ahrens Niemoth. On April 27, 1921, she married Emil Wiegert, a son of John and Anna Zamzow Wiegert, who was born May 26, 1893, in Merrick County.

Amalia (Molly) and Emil Wiegert lived on a farm in extreme western Merrick County until 1931 when they moved into Grand Island where he was an insurance agent for State Farm Insurance until 1960, at which time he retired. Emil was also a charter member of Farmers Union Local 904 in Merrick County.

Emil Wiegert passed away September 15, 1970, and Molly continues to live in Grand Island where she devotes much time to charitable activities and church work. Emil is buried in the West Lawn Cemetery at Grand Island. *Submitted by Mrs. Carl Karen Niedfelt*



Amalia Niemoth and Emil Wiegert

FRIEDRICH WIEGERT

Friedrich Wiegert was born June 14, 1829, in Pammern, Germany. When the family came to the United States they settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. To Friedrich and his first wife five children were born: Henry, John, Herman, Emma, and Fred. His first wife passed away in Wisconsin and is buried there. Her name is not known.

Later he married Emma Kumerl. The family came to Nebraska by train in 1871 and settled six miles west of Chapman.

The farmers went to the rivers to cut cottonwood and willow withes, and then cut them into one foot lengths. They were then stuck into the ground where they were to grow. Many of the timber claims were started that way. Large families were the order of the day and big gardens were raised to help feed the rapidly growing population.

Friedrich Wiegert used an oxen and a breaking plow with wooden beam to break the land. As of this writing, Friedrich Wiegert's grandson, Raymond Wiegert, still has the oxen yoke and breaking plow with wooden beam.

Mrs. Friedrich Wiegert of the Wiegert Community wrote to the Iowa Conference of the Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1882, asking for a missionary to provide leadership for the three circuits — Grand Island, Wiegert Community and Schlueter Community.

Friedrich Wiegert passed away April 7, 1896, and Emma passed away March 19, 1919. Both are buried at the Wiegert Cemetery. *Written by Darlene Wiegert Levene*

GEORGE WIEGERT FAMILY

George and Louise Wiegert farmed in Merrick County forty years.

George August was born February 13, 1901, the son of Herman and Augusta Wiegert. Louise was was born at Marquette, Nebraska, August 12, 1902. She was the daughter of Henry and Laura Vogt. After her eighth grade of school, her family moved to a farm a half mile from where George and his family lived, and it was then they began their



George and Louise Wiegert

courting days.

They were married September 23, 1927 at St. Paul, Nebraska. They lived with George's parents for one year, and then bought a house and moved it on his parents farm, which in later years they bought.

It was here where four children came to bless their home.

Florence, who married LaVern Krull of Wood River, Nebraska. They now live in Grand Island. Lucille, who married Don Poole of Grand Island, Nebraska, where they are now living. Delbert, who married Marlene Maddox of Palmer, Nebraska. They are living at St. Libory. Robert died at the age of eight. They had five grandchildren.

George and his dad, Herman, loved to hunt and fish. George also did a lot of trapping. He would skin and stretch the pelts to sell. Often his dad would take the fat of the skunks and melt it to use the oil for anyone who had an ear ache.

George lost an eye in a hunting accident and while in the hospital their good neighbors had a corn husking bee.

In the winter, when there was snow on the ground George would hitch the team of mules to the bob-sleigh and the family would all go rabbit hunting, or just for a family ride, all huddled up with horse hide robes.

The work on the farm was hard, but George and Louise worked side by side, milking cows by hand, shocking grain, picking corn, with a hook and peg, and raising a large garden every summer, and canning vegetables and meat. Raising their own pork and beef, the ham, bacon and sausage were cured and smoked in their own smoke house, along with smoking many of the neighbors meats.

Sunday was a relaxing day, going to church and then spending time with the family.

Louise was talented in crafts, and did a lot of crocheting. When her daughters were little she sewed their dresses from feed sack material, which was 100% cotton and had to be ironed to look nice, using the good old flat iron that was heated on the old wood burning stove. It was a real luxury for Louise when they got electricity in 1949.

When they started Extension Clubs, Louise joined the Pleasant Ridge Club, along with other neighbor ladies, and became a very active member.

George passed away on December, 25, 1967. Louise moved into Grand Island and made her home there until she passed away on December 10, 1971. *Submitted by Florence Krull, Lucille Poole, Delbert Wiegert*

JOHN WIEGERT

John Wiegert was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on March 12, 1861, and was nine years old when his parents settled west of Chapman. He married Anna Zamzow June 1, 1888. She was born in Porthee, Wisconsin, January 27, 1871.

At the time of the blizzard of 1888, John Wiegert and his father, Friedrich took a wagonload of wheat to the elevator in Grand Island. While they were there the snowstorm developed into a real blizzard and the men at the elevator didn't want them to start home. However, they did and huddled down in the corner of the wagon, letting go of the lines. The team of mules took them safely home. When they arrived there were four inches of snow, sleet, and ice on the mules.

To John and Anna Wiegert twelve children were born: Albert, born May 10, 1889 — married Clara Hagemen. To this union seven boys and one girl were born. Albert died August 26, 1952, and is buried at Sunrise Cemetery at Wahoo, Nebraska. His wife, Clara, resides at a rest home in Pawnee City, Nebraska at the age of ninety one.

Clara Louise, born April 16, 1890. She worked for Wolbachs in Grand Island for more than fifty years. She died June 3, 1972 and is buried at Westlawn Cemetery in Grand Island.

Fred, born September 24, 1891 — married Lillian Travis. He died February 22, 1956, and is buried at the Wiegert Cemetery.

Emil H., born May 26, 1893 — married Amalia Niemoth. He died September 15, 1970 and is buried at Westlawn Cemetery in Grand Island. His wife, Amalia, still resides at 216 East Eighteenth Street in Grand Island.



John Wiegert, Granddaughter Donna Levene, Champ

Emmons A., born April 19, 1896 — married Lou Emma Raser. To this union two boys were born. He died September 1, 1969 and is buried at Memorial Cemetery in Fremont, Nebraska. His wife, Lou Emma, resides at 107 North Platte in Fremont.

Dora Sophia, born March 8, 1898 — married Joe Armatis. To this union two boys were born. Joe and Dora reside at 1222 West Third Street in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Anna Malinda, born August 16, 1899 — married Lester E. Plymale. To this union eight children were born. Linda and Lester reside in Rockford, Illinois.

Wesley, born November 20, 1901 — married Berniece Melton. To this union one daugther was born. Wesley died October 26, 1936. Berniece died January 4, 1946.

Esther Laura, born October 25, 1903 — married Arthur W. Stiller. To this union two boys were born. Esther and Art reside in Waxahachie, Texas.

Raymond C., born February 27, 1906 — married Violet Ueckert. To this union three children were born. Ray and Violet reside at 110 East Eighteenth Street in Grand Island.

Helen, born March 15, 1908 — married Ruben Frei. To this union two boys were born. Ruben died May 16, 1975 and is buried at Westlawn Cemetery in Grand Island. Helen resides at 308 West 10th Street in Grand Island.

Leona M., born August 16, 1910 — married Harry Nelson. They reside in 4249 Pennsylvania Avenue in Grand Island, Nebraska.

In the early 1900's there was a considerable amount of horse thievery going on, and in 1906 John Wiegert received a letter from Frank Hanna saying that he was appointed president of the Horse Thief Association. At one time there were 100 members of the Horse Thief Association.

Grandpa Wiegert was known as the "Community Veterinarian." Sometime in the 1920's or thereabouts, there was an epidemic of hog cholera. So *many* hogs died that they just dug a long trench to bury them. Grandpa Wiegert wrote to Lincoln to get some serum and syringes to vaccinate the neighbors' hogs against hog cholera. After the vaccination was given to the hogs every year, no one lost hogs to cholera anymore. Grandpa Wiegert did lots of de-horning and vaccinating for people, taking his sons along to help.

Grandpa Wiegert lived with my parents (Ray and Violet Wiegert) and me for awhile on the farm. I remember him sitting in his rocking chair and holding me on his lap. Grandpa would help me ride our horse "Champ." I was four years old when grandpa died.

Anna Wiegert died December 12, 1932 and John Wiegert died on August 3, 1950. They are buried at the Wiegert Cemetery. *Written by Darlene Wiegert Levene*

RAYMOND & VIOLET WIEGERT

Raymond Wiegert was born February 27, 1906, to John and Anna Zamzow Wiegert on the Wiegert farm nine miles northeast of Grand Island. He was baptized and confirmed at Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church. He attended District #32 School in Merrick County. As a young man he played baseball on teams at Chapman (Outlaws), Polk, Archer and Palmer. He stacked hay along #281 and Chapman Road to make his living. He married Violet Ueckert in Marysville, Kansas, on November 14, 1945.

Violet Ueckert was born August 30, 1924, to Arthur and Sophia Von Aschwege Ueckert, on a farm one and one half miles north and two and a half miles west of Worms, in Howard County, Nebraska. She went to school at District 40 in Howard County. Her father farmed, milked cows and had a few horses and hogs. She had an older sister, Velaura and the girls had a shetland pony to ride. Violet finished her education in Grand Island after her family moved there in 1938. She worked at Star Supermarket and Kaufmann's Department Store. Both stores stayed open on Saturday night.

The couple had three children: Darlene Ann, Marlene Kay, and Roger Raymond. The children attended school in Grand Island.

Raymond served as a member of the District #32 School Board. In the fall of 1964, Ray moved the family to Grand Island. They bought a house and now reside at 110 E. 18th Street. He still commuted to the farm after the family moved. The family spent many Saturday nights in Aurora at the skating rink.

In 1973, the Wiegert family received the Pioneer Farm Award given by the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben for "One Hundred Years of Continuous Ownership within the family of the Same Nebraska Farm Ground." The original member of the family to own land in Nebraska was Freidrich Wiegert.

Raymond rented the house out on the farm until 1974, when his son Roger moved to the farm. He usually makes a trip to the farm every day. Ray loves to go hunting and go to farm sales.



Raymond and Violet Wiegert and children

A Wiegert Family Reunion is held the last Sunday in July. It has been held the last sixty years and has never been rained out. Until the tornado damage last year it had been held without fail at Lincoln Park. Raymond's family also attend a reunion held every two years for the former Chapman "Outlaw" Softball Team. *Submitted from manuscripts by Darlene Wiegert Levene and Violet Ueckert Wiegert*

ROGER & RONDA WEIGERT

In 1974 Roger Weigert moved to the family farm where he was raised as a boy. The house was built in the late 1800's, where Roger's grandparents raised twelve children, including Raymond Wiegert, Roger's father.

Roger went to country school at District #32, grades Kindergarten through sixth. Grades seven through nine were at Walnut Jr. High in Grand Island. Roger was enrolled at Grand Island Senior High School for grades 10 through 12 and graduated in 1970.

Raymond and Violet Ueckert Wiegert moved to Grand Island in 1964 and continued to farm the land while renting the farmhouse out. Roger, being the only son, farmed with Raymond and decided to choose farming as his career. Raising cattle, pigs,



Roger Wiegert Family

and Appaloosa horses are also added to the farm work which takes up most of the time.

In 1974 Roger met Ronda Hartmann, who was employed at Johnson Cashway of Grand Island. Ronda is the daughter of Marvin and Elaine Jorgensen Hartmann of Wood River, Nebraska. Ronda has three brothers and grew up on a farm.

Roger and Ronda were married April 3, 1976, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Island. A reception followed in the church basement and a wedding dance was held at the Eagles Club that evening.

Ronda quit working in June to become a homemaker and help Roger when needed. Their first child, Tara Sue, was born March 9, 1977. Tara loves the outdoors and helping her daddy when the opportunity arises. Her sister, Tatum Ann, was born March 20, 1980, so this summer, she'll help, too!

Raising Appaloosa horses is a favorite of all. Tara enjoys playing with the colt we raise each spring and riding with her mom on nice warm days.

Living on a farm in Merrick County is something none of us would want to change. *Submitted by Ronda Wiegert*

WILLIAM WIEGERT FAMILY

William H. Wiegert, son of Herman and Augusta (Stiller) Wiegert, was born on March 11, 1898, on a farm in western Merrick County where he received his education at District #32 School.

Catherine I. Sass, daughter of Christian and Anna (Frauen) Sass, was born on January 4, 1907, on a farm in western Merrick County where she received her early education at Lockwood School District #1, near her parents' farm. Her mother had also attended this school.

They were married on September 14, 1927. They were very fortunate to celebrate their fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in September, 1977. There were over 400 relatives and friends who attended this memorable occasion. They lived and farmed in western Merrick County all their wedded life. He is still living on the same farm. Mrs. Wiegert passed away on June 22, 1978.

To this union were born four children: Mrs. Heyward (Alice) Weller who now resides in Nampa, Idaho; Larry who lives in western Merrick County; Mrs. Dale (Geraldine) Hoagland and James, who both reside in Grand Island.

All four children attended Lockwood School where their mother and grandmother previously attended. Some of their grandchildren are attending the same school, which is now a modern brick building.

They were active in the Emmanuel EUB Church located in western Merrick County, which had begun in 1872 and was discontinued on January 1, 1965, and was merged at that time with the Salem EUB Church in Grand Island.

Bill, as he is known to his many friends, served his county well as a County Supervisor for twelve years. He also served on the Lockwood School Board for twenty six years, and for several years on the Vieregg Township Board. *Submitted by Geraldine Wiegert Hoagland*



William Wiegert Family

ELI & EMMA WILES

Eli Lawton Wiles was born November 26, 1883, at Dockery, Wilkes County, North Carolina. He was the son of William Calloway and Elizabeth Grimes Johnson Wiles. William and Elizabeth Wiles' children included Doctor Gordon, Adam Finley, James A. Garfield, Eli Lawton, and Crealy Wilborn.

Emma Louise Brummer was born December 11, 1881, near Ridgeway, Iowa County, Wisconsin. Her parents, Casper Brummer and Annie Kraus, were both born in Germany. The Brummer children were: Katherine, Annie (Mrs. Kaspar Hannapel), Anton, John, Lena, Mary, Emma, Frank, George, Casper, and Joseph.

Eli and Emma met when both were employed at ranches near Schuyler, Nebraska. Because of poor health, Emma had come to visit her sister, Annie, who was living north of Schuyler. She found employment at the Fuller Ranch. Eli, at age eighteen, came to Schuyler to live with his brother Adam, who was a school teacher. Eli worked on the Likes and Charlie Richards ranches. Eli and Emma were married on April 2, 1907, at Schuyler. Their family included two daughters, Vera Elizabeth born July 5, 1908, and Edith Louise born October 1, 1909.

After living at Schuyler and on a farm near Fullerton, they moved to Merrick County where they lived the remainder of their lives.

Even though their religious backgrounds were very different they became faithful members of the Clarks Methodist Church, later transferring to the Central City Methodist Church.

Their daughters both attended District #25, Clarks High School and Nebraska Central College, and were teachers in rural Merrick County schools.

Vera married Francis Brannan on February 22, 1936, and has 3 daughters, Donna Louise, Mary Elizabeth and Elaine Ann.

Edith married George Charles Lindgreen on August 7, 1936. They have two sons, Gary Charles born July 30, 1939, and Maurice Eli, born November 5, 1942.

In 1950, Eli and Emma retired from the farm which is now owned by the Lindgreens. They moved to Central City. They enjoyed their retirement by traveling and visiting their families in Wisconsin and North Carolina.

On December 19, 1956, Eli suffered a stroke and passed away the same day. Emma lived in their home, and then at Merrick Manor and Bethesda Nursing Home before her death on December 20, 1968. They were both laid to rest in the Central City Cemetery. *Submitted by Vera Brannan*

WILHELMI — PART I

My grandparents, William and Marie Wilhelmi, Sr., and Casper and Marie Hohmann, came from different parts of Germany and settled in Southwestern Merrick County about 1880, where they farmed and raised their families. My father, William (Bill) Wilhelmi, Jr., was next to the youngest of nine children. Emma Hohmann, my mother, was the sixth of nine children.

The Senior Wilhelmi's moved to the western part of Chapman later. Henry, the eldest son, lived just west of the parents and Minnie, a daughter, just east.



Wilhelmi Garage — 1926

The Hohmanns went to homestead in Saskatchewan, Canada, in 1909. Emma accompanied her parents, but she had already met my father. He made a visit to Canada in 1910, and soon she returned to Grand Island to live with her sister, Louise, until her marriage to Bill Wilhelmi in March, 1912.

They started farming near Havens, where Raymond and I were born. We moved to Chapman where Billy, Virgil, and Vera Mae were born.

Dad went to mechanics school. He and his brother Henry operated the Wilhelmi Bros. garage in Chapman for several years. He employed a couple of mechanics. They sold gas at a little hand pump out front. I remember pulling the handle back and forth to get the gas up to 5 or 10 gallons for the next sale.

Dad was salesman for Willys Knight-Overland, and when the new Whippet came out, he sold so many that he won first for the Central Nebraska area and second in the United States.

The garage he went into later was right next door to our home. November 11, 1924, we were awakened early to Mel Abbott calling, "Fire." They poured water on the house to save it, but the garage and contents were gone. A gun was found in the bed of a truck. That, together with no evidence of tire ash, seemed to indicate that someone had stolen tires and set fire to it.

I also remember that the Farmers Bank was robbed, and Dad chased the robber. Mother was relieved that he didn't catch him.

Mother busied herself with caring for her family. We attended the Methodist Church and were active in all their projects. One year she boarded three school teachers — Margaret Hillyard, Beulah Crane, and Ethel Harbert. That was a happy time of music and songfests — Raymond played trumpet, me — trombone, Margaret —. piano.

Mother was also a good seamstress, and had several women she sewed for, as well as keeping the family clothed and helping with quilts at the church. She belonged to Eastern Star and Dad belonged to both Masons and Star.

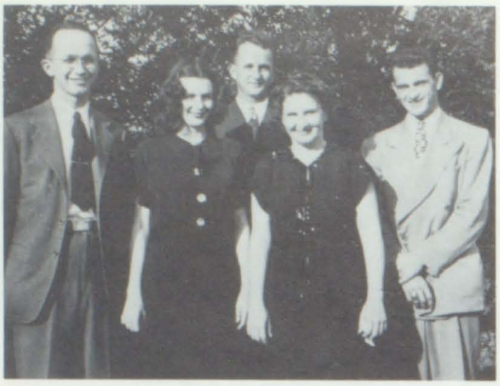
For us "kids" it was a time of piano or instrument practice and band with summer camps. A happy time of rollerskating, swinging on the bag or tire swings, playing on the Masonic steps. I remember Fourth of July parades and fireworks, Halloween pranks, May baskets — fun times.

We lived two years on the Laub farm, and they in our house in town.

Mother died in 1936, at the age of forty six. Dad stayed on in Grand Island and Chapman for three years. At first I helped — then Aunt Louise came from Spokane, Washington, and later he moved to Spokane. He stayed on there and was a mechanic for Dodge until his death in 1948. *Submitted by Viola (Babe) Wilhelmi Rohling*

WILHELMI — PART II

I married Roy Rohling. We had two sons born here — Ron and Dennis. We moved to Spokane to help Dad in 1942. Roy and Dad were in defense work and my brothers, Bill, Virg, and Ray enlisted. Fortunately, they all came home and later married. Ray was a Doctor in Sioux City, Iowa. He died in 1977. Bill made the Air Force his career. He has retired and lives in Sherman, Texas. Virg was a loan



Wm. Wilhelmi Family — 1948
Vera Leamons, Babe Rohling, Ray, Bill and Virg Wilhelmi

officer and vice-president in Puget Sound National Bank, Tacoma, Washington, at the time of his death in 1978. My sister, Vera, had married Marvin Leamons and lived on the Kirchheck farm, near Chapman. They had four children — she died suddenly in 1958.

Roy and I continued to live in the Spokane area. Curt was born in Couer d'alene, Idaho, in 1948. He lives in Grand Island now. Roy and I moved to Los Angeles in 1963, but Nebraska was where we wanted to retire. Roy passed away two weeks after we arrived in 1979. I am now living in Grand Island, and it seems like home to be near many relatives and friends, and fond memories of growing up in Chapman. *Submitted by Viola (Babe) Wilhelmi Rohling*

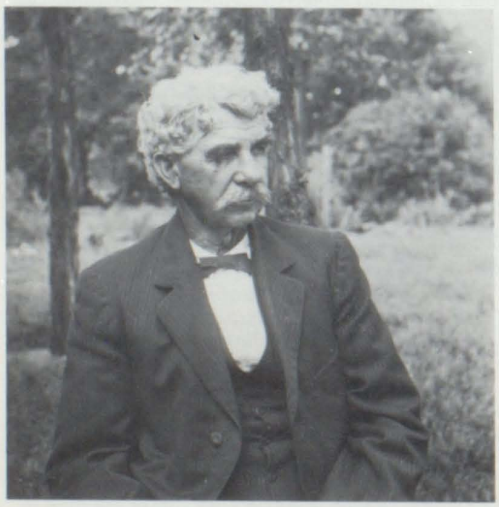
THOMAS & ALICE WILLEMAN

Grandfather Willeman, "hitched-hiked" his way from Henry County, Ohio, in 1872 to Merrick County, to take a soldiers homestead on prairie land, three miles west and six miles north of Central City, known as Fairview neighborhood. In fact, the new Fairview Church is built on a part of this soldier's homestead.

Grandfather made a "dug-out" to live in when he arrived. Later he built a sod house, then went back to Ohio to marry Alice McIntosh. Indians were in the neighborhood when she arrived.

There were no fences. Neighbors cut across pastures, taking the shortest route. Oxen teams were popular, but Grandfather had a team of horses and a wagon. "Hitch-hiking" was popular. When Grandfather went to town he usually had a full load when he reached his destination. Neighbors would sit in a chair along the road until a wagon came along. Then they would put their chair in the wagon to sit on.

The only firewood to be had was along the Loup River. One time Grandfather went after a load and before he could get home, a blizzard over took him. Snow was sifting between the cracks of the house when Grandmother was putting the last stick of wood in the fire. She was getting ready for bed to keep warm when Grandfather returned.



Thomas Willeman

Grandmother was a petite person always in the neatest, appropriate dress of her day. She encouraged a cultured life for her children, college or the arts, such as music, painting, crafts, travel, also teaching as a livelihood.

Grandfather enjoyed planting trees. Of the many cottonwood he planted, he out lived all those huge cottonwood trees! There is still a row of cedar trees he planted on the south border line of the farm great grandson, Dan Erickson, lives on. It so happens, Dan was born on Grandfather Willeman's birth date, ninety-nine years later!

Grandfather's one hobby was visiting with his many friends. His pioneer reminiscing was about the blizzards of 1873 and 1888 and the grasshopper raid of 1874.

I can remember the pond grandfather dug for the young people in dad's day. He planted trees around and it had fish for fishing and a row boat to use. Picnics and many a good time were had there.

His granddaughter, Gwendolyn (Pat) and her husband, Marion Ryan, now live on this homestead. The pond was just south of the barn and a windmill provided water for the pond.

Of the six children born to Thomas and Alice Willeman, only Dad stayed and took up farming just a half mile south of the homestead.

In July 1938, Dad took Grandfather to the National G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Civil War veterans, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Though Grandfather was ninety years old, he and Dad had a great time.

In his ninety-two years, Grandfather saw the world's greatest industrial growth. He lived to enjoy the pleasure of modern conveniences. *Submitted by Vera Willeman Daniels*

LLOYD WILLEMAN FAMILY

"In the presence of twenty-five invited guests, Miss Pearl Winifred Farnham, and Lloyd Thomas Willeman, were joined in marriage, March 5, 1908. The ceremony taking place at the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Farnham, near Archer. Rev. W.H. Underwood conducted the ceremony.

The groom recently purchased a farm about a mile south of the Fairview Church, he and his bride will begin housekeeping there." excerpt from Nonpariel paper

To this union were born seven daughters and a son.

Dad and Mother were ambitious to give us every advantage of a nice home, education and a Christian upbringing.

Mother, having been a teacher, gave Pat (Gwendolyn) and me Primary training before we entered school. We started in Burke's new school house.

Around 1918, my parents built a big house of which every detail of its construction was a facinating experience for me.

We girls were encouraged to bring our friends to visit, many of our Fairview parties, meetings and orchestra practices were held there.

Maxine (Mrs. Leland Erickson) was the first to be born in the new house. Now, her youngest son, Donald and family, live there and find much pleasure living in our family home.

The house was completely modern when built. At that time our electricity was provided by a wind charger. A set of batteries stored the electricity, but when the wind didn't blow a kerosene dynamo provided the energy. Now, wind is being rediscovered and is a new found fuel saving electrical energy!

We girls rode ponies to school. A barn was built at school by Dad, for those that needed shelter for their horses.

My ninth and tenth grades were at Gardner School. Again, I rode a horse or drove a buggy, picking up passengers along the way.

In contrast to todays High School students with cars, imagine a half dozen or more horse back riders racing down the road, kicking up the dust when school was out!

At one time we had fourteen ponies of every size. On weekends, young people came out for horse back riding, or for some, there was something of a rodeo going on. Such fun!

When the drouth of the thirties came, Dad gave the ponies to anyone that had food to care for them. That was just one of the casualties of the thirties.



Lloyd and Winifred Willeman

Dad and Mother were proud of their family and their farm. Each of us have much to look back on to the guidance, good example and wholesome life that they provided for us.

Of the eight of us, Marg (Mrs. Wm. Chesarek) and Betty (Mrs. Gerald Johnston) live in California. Etta (Mrs. Jack Ward) and Tom live in Grand Island and Vera (Mrs. Frank Daniels) in Omaha.

Three live in Merrick County; Gwendolyn (Mrs. Marion Ryan), Janet (Mrs. Jim McMahan) and Maxine (Mrs. Leland Erickson).

We who live elsewhere, look back to "Home" in Merrick County.

Marge, Janet, and Maxine are widows. *Submitted by Vera Willeman Daniels*

IDA PHELPS WILLHOFT



Ida and John Willhoft

Ida Phelps Willhoft was born near Central City on April 26, 1878. She grew up and attended school at District #20, and District #4 in Central City. Ida married John D. Willhoft of Omaha on July 5, 1900. They lived in South Omaha until spring of 1904 when they returned to Central City to farm. To this union seven children were born, vis., Arnold, Holly, Esther, Loren, Eula, Cecil, Neil.

John departed this life at Central City in 1954 and Ida in 1969.

The children of John and Ida, and their whereabouts, are as follows: Arnold died 1980 leaving one son and four grandsons; Holly died 1971 leaving three daughters and six grandchildren; Esther Strasburg — story elsewhere in this book; Loren lives in St. Louis, Missouri, and has two sons and five grandchildren; Eula McHargue lives in Central City — complete story elsewhere in this book; Cecil lives in Gold Beach, Oregon — he has three sons and ten grandchildren; Neil lives in St. Helens, Oregon, he has two daughters and five grandchildren. *Sent in by Esther Willhoft Strasburg*

WILLHOFT — PHELPS

Joseph Phelps was born at Geneseo, Illinois, on March 22, 1840, an addition to an already large family. Following a lengthy service with the Illinois Cavalry, the Civil War at an end, he decided to go West. He traveled by horseback to an area in Nebraska Territory known as Lone Tree. Here he laid claim to a 160 acre homestead. This rich land is still owned by his Grandson's family. Following a winter spent in cutting wood and "proving up" on his homestead, he returned to Geneseo and was married to Susan Amelia Baker. There is a chance that at this time he may have become a horse thief. The horse which he "borrowed" from his brother, Alfred, was soon headed for Lone Tree country pulling a wagon in which the young couple carried their possessions.

1867 was a fruitful year for the young couple for reason of a "bumper" crop of oats. But all the other farmers had a good crop, and the grain would not sell. He threshed the oats and covered them with straw, the better to protect them from the snow and rain. His foresight proved correct, and the next spring he sold 3000 bushels of oats to the Union Pacific at the rate of $1.00 per bushel.

His only child, Ida, was born on April 26, 1878. A talented and intelligent girl, she attended public schools and graduated with honors. On July 5, 1900, she was united in marriage to John Dietrich Willhoft at Omaha, Nebraska. Five years later, they moved to Merrick County where they pursued the role of farmers and stockmen. Always one for culture, my mother never left a "stone unturned" that her children receive a good public school and religious education. A highlight in her life was the baptism of herself and seven children at Christ Church by the late George L. Freeburn.

Ours was a large family: Arnold John, born November 28, 1901; Holly Phelps, February 19, 1903; Esther Amelia Strasburg, April 7, 1904; Loren, September 15, 1905; Eula McHargue, August 4, 1907; Joseph Cecil, May 10, 1910 and Neil, January 31, 1912. Mother and Dad really started a pupulation explosion resulting in twenty five grand children and an unknown number of great grandchildren. For my brother Loren and me, mirth is king, so I must add this bit of wit: My father once said that he was proud of his family because none of them had ever been in the penitentiary. *Submitted by J.C. Willhoft*

JOHN D. WILLHOFT CHILDREN

Arnold John, oldest son of John Dietrich and Ida Phelps Willhoft, was born November 28, 1901. He was married to Hildur Larson and they raised two children, Jerry and Ramona.

Holly Phelps, born February 19, 1903, was married to Alene Wiggins. This union was blessed with three daughters; Mary, Martha, and Susan.

Esther Amelia, born April 7, 1904, was married to Leonard Carl Strasburg. They had a big family: Joyce, Jack, Joan, James, Mary, Lois, Cleo, Kathryn, and Rachel.

Loren, born September 15, 1905, was married to Roberta Adams. Their children are John and Joe.



Alice Victoria and J. C. Willhoft

Eula, born August 4, 1907, was married to Hiram McHargue and their children were Kenneth, Thomas, Lorraine, and Rosemary.

Joseph Cecil, born May 10, 1910, was married to Birdeena Holderness and later to Alice Anderson. Children were Samuel, Gary, and James.

Neil, born January 31, 1912, was married to Anamaude Wing. They had two daughters, Leeann and Louise.

Four of the Willhoft children, by choice or situation, remained in or near Central City. Loren decided upon the city of St. Louis for his successful life in manufacturing. Cecil and Neil were lured to the great state of Oregon for careers in timber-associated industries. *Submitted by J.C. Willhoft*

ALFRED & RUTH WILLIAMS

Alfred F. Williams was borne to Lee and Laura McNut Williams on August 26, 1895, at Cedar Bluffs Nebraska. There were five children born to Lee and Laura Williams: a son that died as an infant; Della born July 12, 1894, died April 12, 1970; Alfred; then another sister Hazel born July 28, 1899; Richard, born January 21, 1901, died September 4, 1959.

Their grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Williams. Mr. Richard Williams died in Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska at the age of eighty-five years where they are both buried.

In 1908, Alfred and family moved to the Central City, Nebraska area on a farm northwest of the city. Two years later they moved to Clarks, Nebraska on a farm. In 1910 they moved into Clarks where Alfred attended school until 1912 when he graduated from the eighth grade. He worked on a farm until his father died of yellow jaundice. At that time Alfred ran his father's dray line hauling in Clarks; they ran two wagons and teams.



Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Williams

Alfred married Ruth E. Chesley on October 28, 1914. He worked on a ranch at Clarks until an uncle retired and put them on his farm. They farmed several farms until 1941. Due to the drought they were forced to move into town. Alfred worked for the Farmers Union State Exchange at the corner of highways Thirty and Fourteen. He managed the store for seven years. The store sold everything from toothpicks to tractors. The CO-OP was robbed on June 14, 1947, the safe door was blown off. In 1950 they moved to Hastings, Nebraska, for one year.

Moving back to Central City, he worked for Dodge Brothers cars for Freeman Larson; then went to work for Ross McIlany, retiring in 1969.

They started in a pitch club in 1932 with twenty-four and there are twelve still playing. Several are of the original bunch.

Ruth and Alfred had three sons: Marvin born July 18, 1916 and passed away Novemer 29, 1917. Glin was born May 21, 1919, and died of the flu February 23, 1920. Rex was born October 21, 1921.

Alfred and Ruth now have two grandsons and two great-grandchildren. They celebrated their sixty-sixth anniversary at Long Term Care Center, where Ruth was cared for. She had several strokes.

Alfred now resides at Merrick Manor.

Ruth's parents were Drew and Nellie Chesley. Her mother died in 1914 and is buried at Pierce Chapel. Their sons are also buried there. Ruth Chesley Williams had three brothers and five sisters. Ruth died April 10, 1981. *Submitted by Alfred Williams*

ARTHUR & PEARL WILLIS

Arthur Willis, son of Elmer and Annie Willis, was born April 11, 1900, in Central City, Nebraska, where he lived his entire life.

He received his education in the Central City Schools.

Pearl Woodward, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Woodward, was born November 2, 1898, on a farm near Newark, Nebraska.

In 1902, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Woodward and their five children moved to Archer, Nebraska, where Mr. Woodward was manager of the Hord Elevator Co. until the time of his retirement.

She attended the grade school at Archer, Nebraska, then went to the Central City High School, graduating with the class of 1916. She also attended the University of Nebraska, and Teachers College in Greeley, Colorado. She taught school seven years, five years in the lower grades at Archer. She was teaching there when the Archer schoolhouse burned in October, 1920. What a frightening morning that was! Someone came to the door and said, "The schoolhouse is on fire, get everyone outside immediately." She tried to keep calm, and told the children to get on their coats and caps. They got out of the schoolhouse safely, and the children gathered around her as they watched the schoolhouse burn. It was such an old building it soon burned to the ground. They finished that school year in the Sunday School room of the Archer Methodist Church.

Arthur Willis and Pearl Woodward were married September 25, 1923, in my parents home in ARcher, Nebraska. They established their home in Central City, as Arthur was employed by the Fitch Bros. Printing Company.

Later, he worked for the Central City National Bank and the Central City Republican. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and filled a number of offices in that church. He was Past Master of the Masonic Lodge.

On December 17, 1925, their son Noel was born. He was baptised in the Presbyterian Church, and took an active part in the Sunday School and music. He attended the Central City Schools, graduating in May, 1943. At that time, World War II was raging. President Roosevelt had signed a bill saying eighteen year-olds would be drafted. Before Noel's eighteenth birthday, he joined the Navy and served two years in the service. Upon his return from service, he entered the engineering college at Ames, Iowa, and received his degree in engineering.

On January 15, 1949, Noel Willis and Jean Snook of Trenton, New Jersey, were married. They now



Arthur and Pearl Willis, son Noel — Dec. 1943

live in Iowa City, Iowa, and are the parents of four grown children, all graduates of the Iowa University.

June 16, 1938, Arthur was appointed postmaster of the Central City post office, where he faithfully served until the time of his death.

Arthur Willis died May 21, 1963, after a lengthy illness, leaving his wife, Pearl, and one son, Noel and wife of Iowa City, Iowa, and four grandchildren.

Pearl continued to live in her home, working for twelve years as assistant librarian in Hards Memorial Library. She now has an apartment at Sunset Manor. *Submitted by Pearl Willis*

FAY SADLER WILLIS

The winter seemed especially wintery . . . being away from family and friends. Mom (Fay Sadler), and I (Wilma Sadler) moved to Central City in February of 1934. We lived in a one-room apartment above Machamers' where the sound of piercing whistles and jittery dishes seemed a constant reminder that we lived a stones-throw from Union Pacific's main line.

We were accustomed to train noises, having lived near Havelock's Burlington Shops, where my father, Samuel Sadler, was a machinist. After his sudden and fatal illness in November of 1933, at the age of 30, we lived for a time with my grandparents, Orly and May (Russell) Cassell, in Republican City. My father was the son of Charles and Nellie (Stevenson) Sadler. Both sides of my family were early Harlan County (NE) residents.

Mother decided to become a beautician, and trained at the "Hastings Beauty Academy." When I enrolled in Central City's "South Ward," it was my fifth "fifth grade," having attended, briefly, Alcott and Longfellow schools in Hastings.

Mom's "LaFayette Beauty Shop" was down the hall from our apartment, and overlooked main street. Living near the "State" and "Sun" theaters, I became an avid movie fan. The price of a ticket . . . ten cents. Clara and Bill Everett were our neighbors and their niece, LaDon Niles, was my first friend and shared my March 22, 1922 birthdate.

Mother worked very hard in her world of "shampoos' and sets." Shampoo and wave . . . seventy-five cents, permanents . . . $1.50-⅝.00 ($5.00 seldom), end curls . . . $1.25, and manicures . . . fifty cents. On June 3, 1935, she married Kenneth Virgil Willis (also known as Bo), son of Elmer and Annie (Peterson) Willis. I stayed with my grandparents in Republican City while they honeymooned. This was during the time floods ravaged the Republican River valley and I saw the awful destruction.

Bo was a mechanic for Larson Chevrolet, and we moved (shop and all) into a house north-east of the Union Pacific Depot. In 1936, I was hurt in a high-school science experiment which caused the loss of an eye. After a long hospitalization, I rode the train nearly every day to Grand Island for medical treatment. I knew the porters and conductors by name. One day a priest was sitting on the seat where I always sat, so I sat down beside him. He found me a talkative traveling companion, and by the time we got to Grand Island I probably had told him my life's history. A large contingent of priests and nuns met him as we stepped off the train. A red-cap rushed for his suitcase and said, "Father Flannigan?". I gaped in embarrassment and thought . . . "Oh sure . . . Boystown." He smiled and waved as I hurriedly walked away. I hadn't even asked his name.

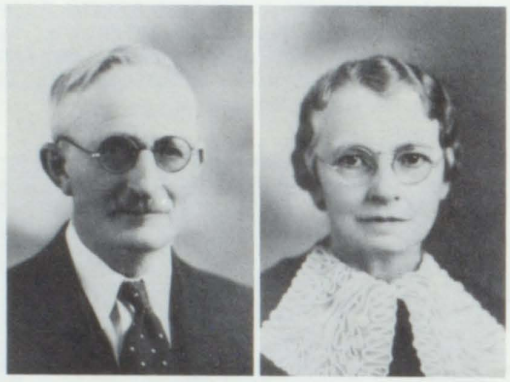
December 25, 1939, brought my best Christmas present ever . . . my long-wanted sister, Carol Jeanine, was born. Mom sold her shop in 1943 to Vernie Lock, her co-operator, and they moved to Grand Island. Bo worked for the Union Pacific in the yards and mom worked for 20 years in Vera's Beauty Shop in the Hotel Yancey until she retired in 1964. They still live at 1523 West John and my sister, Mrs. Jerry Hiett, lives in Norfolk and has two children Gerald and Mary. *Submitted by Wilma Sadler Shull in behalf of her mother*



Wilma Sadler and sister Jeanine

FRED WILLMAN FAMILY

Carl Friedrick Willman, son of Heinrich and Anne Arning Willman, was born at Quernheim, Westphalia, Germany Dec. 13, 1871, and emigrated to the United States in 1888. He came first to Phillips, Nebraska and worked as a farm laborer for German settlers in that area and later near Doniphan. February 9, 1898, he married Dora Matilda Spiehs, daughter of August Peter and Doris Greisbach Spiehs and established their home on a farm near Abbott in Hall County.



Friedrick and Dora Willman

Diligence, thrift and faith in the Lord carried them through many trying times as most early settlers have attested. In 1909 the family, now including Ann, Charles, Lillian, Mildred and Walter moved ten miles east, contrary to Horace Greeley, and set up a new farmstead in section 28-12-8 in Vieregg township of Merrick County. Two more sons, Herman and Robert, completed the family. The children attended District #1 School at Lockwood and Grand Island High School. A special treat to school youngsters walking along the railroad tracks was an occasional ride on a hand-car. As they reached adulthood they pursued various interests. Ann married Charles Kuhlman and raised a family on the farm; Charles (deceased) worked in the implement business; Lillian taught history at Grand Island High School; Mildred, a nurse, worked throughout the U.S. and served in the Navy in Hawaii in World War II; Walter maintained a clothing business in Grand Island many years; Herman (deceased) had various interests, eventually building an outstanding concession business in Portland, Oregon; Robert farms.

Fred raised duroc hogs and maintained beef and dairy herds in addition to grain crops. He was one of the first to put down irrigation wells in the late 1930's, which started a new era in agriculture.

The family were members of the St. Pauls Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grand Island and staunchly upheld participation in church and governmental responsibility.

Dora died in June, 1949 and Fred in June, 1959. The farm home is now maintained by the youngest son, Robert and his wife Delores. *Submitted by Marilyn Wilson*

FRANK & SALLY WILSON

Frank Arthur and Sally Rogers Wilson came to Central City in 1912, as newlyweds. Both were born in Shoals, Indiana, in 1882. Mr. Wilson was the older brother of Roy and Mrs. Ella Gilley (Bert), who also lived in Merrick County with their families.

Frank and Sally began married life as farmers near Central City, later moving to another farm near Archer, Nebraska.

Two daughters were born to this union: Mary Sue in 1913, Dorothy Jean in 1920.

The Wilson family moved to Torrington, Wyoming, in January, 1929, to their own farm.

Sally Wilson died in 1949. Frank Wilson retired from active farming the following year but continued to manage his farm until his tragic death in 1969. He was hit and killed by a car in San Francisco, California, while visiting his oldest daughter, Mary Sue, and her family.

Mary Sue attended the University of Wyoming and taught school in and about Torrington for ten years. She moved to California in 1942. There she married Paul Friedman, a lawyer, in 1948. They still reside in San Francisco. They have two children: Louis and Sally, (Mrs. Denis White). Mary Sue retired from the Federal Government, as a personnel management specialist, in 1965.

The younger daughter, Dorothy Jean, attended Lincoln University, where she studied music. She lives in Torrington with her husband, Ervin Fritz. They have one daughter, Charlene (Mrs. Clayton Forbes). Dorothy Jean at present is Clerk of the Court in Torrington. *Submitted by Mary Sue Wilson Friedman*

JACK WILSON FAMILY

Jack and Marilyn Wilson established their home in Clarksville township March, 1954 having moved from Red Cloud, Webster County, Nebraska. Jack, son of Leslie and Helen Reiher Wilson, is a native of Seward, Nebraska where his father was one of the earliest County Extension agents. The family later moved to farm near Red Cloud. Marilyn, daughter of Charles and Ann Willman Kuhlman, was born when the family lived southwest of Chapman and moved with the family to Clarks when she was six months old. She attended District #25 rural school and cherishes memories of schooldays taught by Mildred Crites Carr, Elvira Ferguson Dexter, Mary Gilley Snell and Dolan Pollard Lundahl. Her high-school education was received in Clarks and Grand Island. Both Jack and Marilyn attended UN-L, he having returned from the Army of Occupation in Japan. She was on the Nutrition Research Staff while he completed his studies.

In addition to farming, 4-H has been an important part of their lives having served as leaders since 1952. In time sons John Allan and James Bruce born in 1955 and 1958, respectively, became actively involved in 4-H, achieved many honors and have chosen to assist other young people to enjoy the same opportunity by pursuing education to become Extension Agents. John, having received his M. Sc. from UN-L is agent in Burt County, at Tekamah, and Jim is in graduate school at UN-L.

Jack, a believer in updating farming practices and conservation of resources spends time in his shop developing machines to assist in minimum-tillage and energy conservation. For many years hog-feeding was a large part of the farming operation, but in recent years irrigation corn and popcorn and hay have been the primary endeavor.

The Wilsons are active members of the Clarks United Methodist Church and also enjoy fellowship in such organizations as Lions, Masonic Lodge and Order of the Eastern Star. The family has pursued a hobby or rockhounding and lapidary in addition to other arts and crafts.

Jack has served as presiding officer in local and county organizations and is presently learning much about the role of County Supervisor.

Marilyn expends energy as secretary of the Merrick County Fair Association and particularly enjoys seeking out recipients for the Pioneer Farm Awards and hearing the reminiscences of the families' pioneer heritage. *Submitted by Marilyn Wilson*

JOHN A. WILSON FAMILY

John A. Wilson and his wife, Sarah McDonald Wilson, settled in Merrick County, nine miles northeast of Central City in *1872*. John was born 10 December 1840, Randolph County, Illinois — d. 8 June 1918, Clarks, Nebraska. He was a direct descendant of Reverend William Martin, a Revolutionary War patriot. Sarah Rebecca McDonald was b. 22 July 1845, Randolph County, Illinois, and d. 9 August 1933, Central City, Nebraska.

On 10 August 1861, John enlisted in Company C, 30th Regiment, Illinois Infantry. At the close of the Civil War the 30th Illinois regiment marched down Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington D.C., in the Presidential Review.

John and Sarah were married 21 December 1865 in Randolph County, Illinois. They lived in Randolph County before traveling, by covered wagon, to Merrick County, Nebraska. After two years of fighting grasshoppers, with little success, John procured a government permit to be absent from his homestead without loss of his claim. John and Sarah returned to Illinois. In 1877 they came back to their Nebraska claim and were successful in conquering the prairie. Their later years were spent in Clarks, Nebraska. John and Sarah celebrated their Golden Anniversary 15 December 1915. Their six children were: 1. William Henry b. 4 October 1866 Randolph County, Illinois, d. 1866, 2. Samuel b. 24 January 1868 Randolph County, Illinois, d. 8 April 1951 Central City, Nebraska, m. Ada May Scudder 17 January 1893 Meade Township, Merrick County, Nebraska (Ada Scudder Wilson at the time of her death, 8 March 1963 was the oldest living native of Merrick County. She was b. 5 January 1875, 3. John Andrew b. 10 February 1870 Randolph County, Illinois, d. 31 January 1900 Clarks, Nebraska, 4. Mary Ellen b. 6 April 1872 Merrick County, d. 22 October 1939 Grand Island, Nebraska, 5. Nancy Jane b. 1 February 1875 Merrick County, d. 17 August 1967 Mitchell, South Dakota, 6. Sarah Emaline b. 18 August 1881 Merrick County, d. 15 September 1904 Clarks, Nebraska.

Cecil Wilson and Cecil Gray are grandsons still residing in Central City.

My husband, Olan K. "Bus" Wilson, is the son of Sam and Ada Scudder Wilson. Bus and I graduated from Central City High School in 1926. After college, we were married in Central City 26 December 1932. We lived, three years in Clay Center, Nebraska, where Bus coached. In 1935 we returned to Central City and Bus coached all sports in the high School for six years. Our three children were born in Grand Island, Nebraska, during that time: 1. Terrence Keith b. 5 January 1936, d. same day, 2. Joy Therese b. 9 April 1937, 3. Philip Keith b. 16 April 1940.



John A. and Sarah Wilson — 50th Wedding Anniversary Dec. 21, 1915

In 1941 we moved to McCook, Nebraska, where Bus coached football and basketball at McCook Junior College.

The year, 1943, found us collecting gas ration stamps so we could drive to Park Ridge, Illinois. Bus coached football and later became Athletic Director of Maine Township High School. We spent thirty-three wonderful years in Park Ridge. Now, we are enjoying our retirement in Sun City, Arizona. *Submitted by Alice Duffy Wilson*

ROY O. WILSON FAMILY

Anna Sherfick was born November 23, 1886, and Roy Otis Wilson was born December 2, 1884, near Shoals, Indiana. They were married on January 26, 1907, at Shoals. They made their first home in St. Louis, Missouri where Roy was employed by the Railway Express at the Union Station. After two years, they came west to Central City in Merrick County, Nebraska. Roy's brother, Frank, was already farming here.



Anna E. and Roy O. Wilson

Roy worked on the W.A. McCullough ranch for two years and then left to work for Charles Osterman. He worked here for five years and left to realize their dream, farming for themselves. This was in 1916 on a farm one half mile south of Paddock. In later years he would tell how they saved to buy the stock, chickens, and machinery, and then had to borrow $400. from Chas McKendry at the bank to get started. He was proud that he paid this loan off after the harvest that fall. Theirs was the life of the farmers of this time, dependent on rain and prices for the crops, chickens and cows furnishing cash money to buy groceries needed. Most of the work was done by hand, as the machine age had not arrived as yet.

They farmed in Merrick County till 1933 when they moved to a farm near Hordville. Later, in 1937, they moved to a farm near Marquette, Nebraska. In 1949, Anna suffered a stroke and they retired in Marquette Nebraska. Later, in 1969, they moved to Omaha Nebraska to be near two of their children, Genevieve and Roy Jr, who live there. Anna passed away in 1974 at the age of eighty seven years, and Roy passed away in 1978 at the age of ninety three years. They celebrated their sixty fifth wedding anniversary.

Four children were born in Merrick County. One baby died at birth in 1912; Thomas Charles born in 1916; Genevieve Ruth in 1920; and Roy Jr. in 1924.

There are many memories of the times: The love that mother had for flowers all her life. She would talk about the beautiful "Busch Gardens" in St. Louis. She always had wonderful flowers in her yard. Dad would tell about the time he was working in St. Louis and he saw "Dan Patch," the famous trotting horse, come through on the train. The Saturday Nights when farmers went to town with eggs and cream to sell, buying groceries, visiting with friends and neighbors, and stopping at Wilder Cafe for a dish of ice cream before going home. How we looked forward to Dad dragging the road, because it meant cash money. The time we were moving to Hordville and a horse pulling the hayrack dropped dead on Platte River bridge. The dresses Mother sewed from feed sacks. The many times in a snow storm going by team and wagon to celebrate New Years Eve with the neighbors. We all enjoyed supper, cards and watching the New Year come in. *Submitted by Genevieve Wilson May*

THOMAS WINDFIELD FAMILY

One of the older families of the western Merrick County area is that of Thomas and Lydia Windfield.

Mr. Windfield was born at Springfield, Illinois in 1875. His parents were of Danish heritage, his father having been born to a family of nobility. The father, upon falling in love and marrying a maid in the household, was evicted from the family. The young couple then made their way to England where they assumed the name 'Windfield'. They finally arrived in the United States, thence to the mid west and finally to the Worms vicinity.

Mrs. Windfield was born in Saxony, Germany in 1877 to Christlieb and Ernestine Wagner. They arrived at Grand Island, Nebraska in the summer of 1878 and settled on a timber claim one mile west of Worms.

Thomas Windfield and Lydia Wagner were married in April of 1898. They resided for a very short time north of Worms prior to purchasing the home farm in Section 28 Prairie Creek Township, four miles southeast of Worms. This farm was originally the homestead of Casper Seim, a brother-in-law of Mrs. Windfield. The purchase price was $1800.

They moved the farmstead to the highest point on the farm. They hired a Danish carpenter, a Mr. Fred Peterson, who lived with them during the construction of the large home, barn, granary and sheds needed for the farm stead. These buildings, though outmoded still stand in good condition.

The Windfield family included six children. Three daughters: Lillian Cotton, deceased, Mrs. Mabel Kuhlman, Chapman, and Mrs. Myrtle Schrieber, Fremont. Three sons: Edgar of Chapman, Clarence of Alburnett, Iowa and Lloyd of Chapman.

Edgar resides on the home farm. He did not marry, residing with his mother on the home farm until her passing in 1958. Mr. Windfield passed away in 1934.

The Lloyd Windfield Family own and reside on the original Cornelius Ford Homestead, two miles south east of Worms. They have three children: daughter Susan of Ogallala, sons Gary of Lincoln and Tom of Des Moines, Iowa. *Submitted by Lloyd Windfield*

STEPHEN WISER FAMILY

Stephen Lewis Wiser, a Civil War Veteran, was born March 16, 1843, in New Jersey. He came to Merrick County from Petersburg, Illinois in 1871. He was married to Sarah Shipley, December 23, 1874 and she died in 1876.

Stephan Wiser and Clara Belle Dye were married in Merrick County, Nov. 9, 1887. She was born March 29, 1859 in Ohio to James Dye and Mary Ann (Evilsizer) Dye. The Dye family came to Merrick County in 1880 from Urbana, Ohio, in a covered wagon with eight of their nine children.

Stephen Wiser was a member of the GAR and the Mason Lodge in Central City. For many years he was President of the Merrick County Agricultural



Clarabelle and Stephen L. Wiser

Society. At one time, Stephen Wiser and W.E. Marsh organized a stock company to buy land for a County Fair. It was very successful and several excellent fairs were held on ground now occupied by the Central City Cemetery Association.

Stephen and Clara Wiser had fourteen years of married life on their Prairie Creek farm before he died, March 26, 1901, leaving a family of six children. With the help of good neighbors and the two oldest boys, Harrison and Arthur, Clara Wiser managed to keep the family together on the farm. She died February 13, 1927. Their children were: Harrison, who lived in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and worked in the Union Pacific Roundhouse there. Born August 27, 1888 and died January 30, 1965. He was married to Mary Walker of Central City.

Arthur, who farmed in the Chapman and Clarks communities. Born June 24, 1890 and died May 18, 1972. He was married to Alice Johnson of Central City.

Anna, who married Sam Magnuson and lived a half mile east of where she was born until moving to Central City in 1947. Born August 3, 1892 and died May 16, 1963.

Grant, who lived in Indianapolis, Indiana. Born October 1, 1894, died February 15, 1958. He was married to Mary Louise Gravelle of Canada.

Raymond, who lived in Fullerton, Nebraska until around 1938 when he moved his family to McMinneville, Oregon. Born June 8, 1897 and died August 16, 1955. He was married to Grace Sinsel of Chapman.

Stephen, who also lived in Fullerton, Nebraska until around 1938 when he moved his family to McMinneville, Oregon. Born May 7, 1900, died September 19, 1954. He was married to Dorothy Reeder of Chapman. *Submitted by Barbara Ogden*

WITT — LUEBBE

In the early 1870's the Dolph Witt family came to Nebraska from Germany and homesteaded in Nebraska, section 20, Prairie Creek Township in Merrick County. Their first home was a sod house. They suffered droughts, grasshoppers, and cruel winters. Since the prairie was practically treeless, they would in the fall of the year leave early in the morning to go to the Loup River to collect wood and come back the same day. This was a distance of thirty miles round trip and was done by horses pulling a wagon load of wood back.

Later his son, Fred Witt, took over the land and they bought railroad land in section twenty and moved there. Fred Witt became Merrick County Supervisor for his district. He was one of the organizers of Zion Lutheran Church of Worms. This was organized in a little school house on his land one and one half miles South of Worms. The Church was built one mile north of his place and the little village of Worms came into being.

The Fred Witts, having no children of their own took in Anna Horstmann as a little girl. She had lost her mother when she was born. As a young girl she would go to St. Libory once or twice a week with team and wagon to get the mail for neighborhood and deliver it to the general store in Worms, where the people would pick it up.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Luebbe

In October 1906 she and Charles Luebbe were married at Worms. Charles Luebbes parents came from Germany and Charles was born in the State of Illinois as his parents were on the way to Nebraska. Charles and Anna Luebbe made their home with the Fred Witts and began to build up the place erecting barns, graneries and buildings, in addition to the house.

For many years Charles and his brother August operated a steam threshing outfit. In the first years when they would get done shock threshing, it was time to go stack threshing. Charles was also, at one time, the local shipper of livestock for the neighborhood. And livestock was shipped from the yards in St. Libory, Nebr. The hogs were hauled in by wagon and the cattle mostly driven to the yards in St. Libory. He served for many years on the board of Zion Lutheran Church at various positions.

Charles and Anna were the parents of seven children. Fred, Edna, Arthyr, Ruth, Elizabeth, Evelyn and Helen.

Charles and Anna Luebbe and the Witt family are at rest in the parish cemetery at Worms. This is being submitted by Arthur H. Luebbe, who is the present owner and resident of the farm. *Arthur H. Luebbe*

GEORGE WOLCOTT FAMILY

Oliver Wolcott, descendant of a long line of early American settlers, came to Merrick County by way of Canada, Wisconsin, and Iowa. He moved his family to a farm east of Palmer in 1880. George was the second son, born in 1857.

Richard Eatough came to America from Lancaster, England, with a group of Mormons in 1860 and settled for a few years in Salt Lake City, where he helped in building the Mormon Temple. Mormonism of that day was not for the family, and they came to Merrick County where they spent the first winter in a cave near the Platte River, a few miles from Lone Tree.

James Eatough, second son of Richard, was a freighter between Omaha and Denver, and established a homestead near his father's farm where Mary, oldest of seven children, was born in 1864. She was the first non-Indian baby girl born in Merrick County. Mary was married to George Wolcott on Christmas Eve, 1885.

After several years of farming in the Loup River Valley, George and Mary Wolcott moved their family to Central City in 1901. There were eight children born to this couple, seven of whom were graduated from Central City High School. Those children: Mabel (Mrs. James Wilder, deceased), Calista (Mrs. Arthur Campbell, deceased), Vella (Mrs. Oskar Edison, Lincoln, Nebraska), Juanita (Mrs. David Brown, Corona, California), Oliver (married to Edna Yarno, Salem, Oregon), Enid (Mrs. Jay Chadwick, Mira Loma, California), Marie (Mrs. Frank Moles, Pennington, New Jersey), and George (married to Camille Evans, Lincoln, Nebraska).

Five of the Wolcott children, like so many Nebraskans, migrated to California; one moved to the east coast, and the other two remained in Nebraska at the capital city.

George and Mary Wolcott celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1935, and observed their sixty-ninth in 1954. He passed away just short of ninty nine years. She died almost exactly a year later in 1956. George Wolcott died in August 1981. *Submitted by George Wolcott*

C.H. WOODWARD FAMILY

Charles Hollis Woodward was born at Marshalltown, Iowa, March 6, 1870. Florence Irene Herring was born at Bloomington, Illinois, October 4, 1870. They came to Nebraska in covered wagons with their parents in 1878 and homesteaded on farms in the Lowell area.

Charles and Florence were married December 3, 1890. In 1902 they came to Archer. Mr. Woodward managed the Hord elevator until his retirement.

Here they raised and educated eight children and two granddaughters.

Mrs. Woodward died April 29, 1952. Mr. Woodward January 28, 1957. Both are buried in the Central City cemetery.

Anna Mae was born December 19, 1891. Finishing high school she taught school until she married Ralph Swan, June 15, 1915. They lived in Upland and Kearney and retired in Westminister, Colorado where Mrs. Swan now lives. Their two children are Vyrl Swan and Marjorie Ball. Ralph died February 10, 1975.

Clarence Edward was born April 20, 1893. Completing school and being a farmer at heart he worked for neighboring farmers. He and Lillie Arasmith were married February 24, 1915. They made their home near Comstock, Nebraska. Their children are Hollie Belle Paulson, Pearl Glause and Ruth Powell.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Witt



George and Mary Wolcott Family — 1913
Back l-r — Enid, Oliver, Mary, Mabel, Calista, Vella. **Front l-r** — George, Marie George, Juanita.



Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Woodward — 1948

Lillie died October 9, 1921. Following their mother's death Ruth and Pearl were raised by their grandparents. Clarence married Susan Byers January 5, 1928. They farmed North of Archer, then moved to Lyons. Clarence died March 9, 1955.

Pryor Cort was born June 30, 1896. Graduating from high school, he served in World War One. He and Geneva Brannan were married July 20, 1922. They lived in Archer where Cort was postmaster and operated a general store. Later they operated a store in Chapman, then bought a farm near Archer which they operated until retiring into Central City where Geneva now lives. Their family is James of Omaha, Edgar of Grand Island and Rex of Normal Illinois. Pryor Cort died April 11, 1974.

Pearl was born November 2, 1898. Completing high school she taught school for seven years. She married Arthur Willis, September 25, 1923. They had one son, Noel of Iowa City, Iowa. Central City, where Pearl now lives has been their home since. Mr. Willis died May 23, 1963.

Opal Irene was born September 15, 1901. Graduating from Central City high school she married Franklin Campbell, March 16, 1920. They made their home on a farm near Alda where Franklin still lives. Opal died April 9, 1974.

Daisy was born March 1, 1904. She graduated from Central City high school and taught school in Perkins County. She married Clarence Brown and lived there on a farm. Daisy died in August, 1923.

Lola Belle was born March 4, 1908. Graduating with the first class of Archer high school. She married Charles Widman, February 12, 1930. Their children are Rachel Cover (deceased) and Rebecca Gomez. They farmed in Merrick and Hall Counties until 1974 when they retired to Central City.

Vera Arta was born October 29, 1910. Finishing school she married Leonard Van Pelt. They lived on the Van Pelt farm near Archer until they retired into Archer in 1979.

Their children are four boys, Dewitt, Dewain, Roger and Stephen; five girls, Elizabeth Duncan, Rhoda Seiler, Sharlene Riese, Nora Linder and Judy Anderson. *Submitted by Lola Widman*

HERBERT WURTZ FAMILY

Herbert L. Wurtz was born at Polk, Nebraska on October 11, 1899. His wife Josephine C. (Lindburg) Wurtz was born at Polk, Nebraska on May 24, 1902.

They were married at Polk, Nebraska on August 23, 1922. To this union four children were born: Barbara Kohl of Clarks, Ruth Douglas of Clarks, Arlyce Smeltzer of Montrose, California and Herbert W. (Bill) Wurtz of Clarks.

In February of 1933 the Wurtzs moved from Polk, Nebraska to the farm on which Bill Wurtz now resides.

Herbert was a hog raiser and cattle feeder. He also was on the Mid State Board for many years and was an early advocate of water conservation.

Mr. and Mrs. Wurtz are members of the Congregational Church. Herbert is a Mason and his wife Josephine in Eastern Star.

In 1957 the Wurtzs moved to a home in Clarks, Nebraska where at this writing they both still presently live.

At this writing they have fourteen grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. *Submitted by Bill Wurtz*

H.W. WURTZ FAMILY

H.W. (Bill) Wurtz was born at Polk, Nebraska on October 8, 1929 to Herbert L. and Josephine (Lindburg) Wurtz.

Patricia L. Morris was born at Edgar, Nebraska on October 14, 1935 to Floyd O. Morris and Genevieve (Widga) Morris.

They both attended Clarks School and were Clarks graduates. Bill attended the University of Nebraska for one semester and then entered the Navy for four years during the Korean Conflict. Patricia spent one year in California working after high school graduation and lived with her grandparents. She returned to Nebraska and worked at The First National Bank in Lincoln until her marriage.

They were married November 20, 1955 at the Clarks United Methodist Church in Clarks, Nebraska. In 1981 they celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary.

They lived the first one and one-half years of marriage in Havens and moved to the present Wurtz farm in 1957.

To this union four children were born: Jeffrey William on August 27, 1956. He was married to Cynthia M. Grause on May 22, 1976. They have one daughter, Melissa Mae born July 22, 1979. Julie Anne was born August 3, 1958. She married Daryl Lee Van Pelt on June 19, 1975. They have two daughters, Natosha Anne born November 29, 1975 and Tabitha Lee born January 9, 1981. Janet Kay was born July 31, 1960. Jolene Lucille was born September 23, 1961. She married Robert Floyd Rieken on September 29, 1979. They have one son, Jeremiah William born February 28, 1980. They all reside in Clarks or on farms near Clarks.

Bill was a member of the Mid-State Reclamation, a past school board member, and a past Federal Housing Administration board member. At present he is a County Supervisor, belongs to Masonic Lodge, Lions Club, VFW and American Legion.

Patricia (Pat) is a part-time clerk at Wm Douglas and Company in Clarks and belongs to VFW Auxilliary.

They both belong to the Clarks United Methodist Church. *Submitted by Bill Wurtz*

BASIL WYMAN FAMILY

Basil was born on September 9, 1866 at Aarwangen Kanton, Bern, Switzerland. He came to the United States at the age of nineteen with his mother, sisters and brothers. They settled in Patterson, New Jersey.

Basil came to Columbus, Nebraska to visit relatives. He married Anna Blaser on December 25, 1886 and decided to take up farming in Nebraska. They settled on a homestead in Gruetli, a neighborhood about twelve miles west of Columbus. To this union five children were born: Mary Rose (Mrs. Frank Meyers, a second marriage when she became Mrs. Alfred Grossnicklaus of Osceola, Nebraska); John Werner (who married Martha Schipporeit, Brewster, Nebraska); Martha Elisa, Samuel Walter (who married Faye M. Turnby of Central City, Nebraska) and Bertha Gertrude (who married Henry Schipporeit of Brewster, Nebraska.



Basil and Anna Wyman

In 1901 they moved to Polk County, just across the Platte River and south-east of Silver Creek, Nebraska where they farmed until 1922 at which time they moved to an acreage on the north edge of Silver Creek, in Merrick County for their retirement years.

Mrs. Wyman (Anna) passed away on September 19, 1929 and Basil continued to live in Silver Creek and passed away on January 10, 1950. *Submitted by Dorothy Burger*

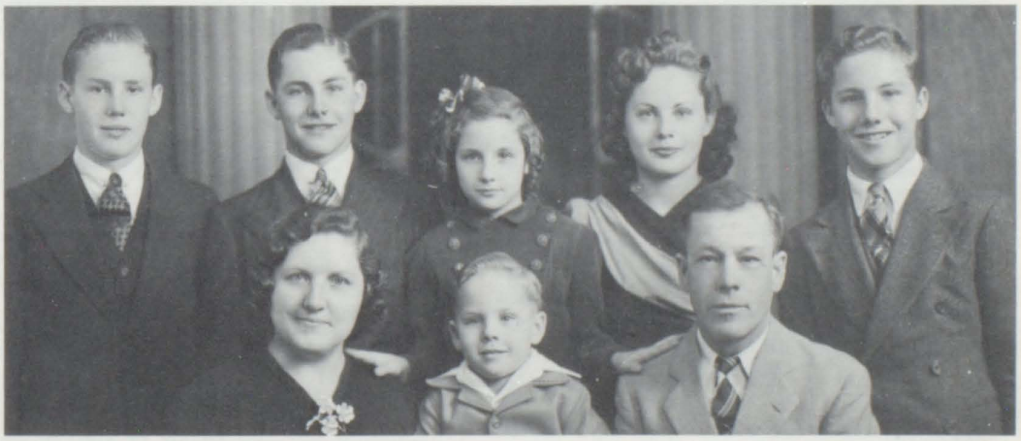
SAM WYMAN FAMILY

Samuel Wyman was born to Basil and Anna Wyman on November 2, 1897 at the homestead near the Gruetli neighborhood, about twelve miles west of Columbus or south of Monroe.

In 1901 the family moved to Polk County — just southeast of Silver Creek. He attended the Polk County District #23 school and then the Agriculture College, University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Faye M. Turnby taught school at District #23 and she roomed and boarded at the Basil Wyman home.

Basil and Anna Wyman retired to an acreage in the north part of Silver Creek in 1922. Sam and his bride (Faye M. Turnby of Central City) were married March 22, 1922 at Grand Island, Nebraska. They made their home on the farm where Sam spent most of his life. To this marriage six children were born. Dorothy Marie (who married Jack Burger of Clarks, Nebraska), William Basil (who married Glade Carlson of Silver Creek area), Roy Orville (who married Mary Helen Jilg of Clarks, Nebraska), Theodore Samuel (who married Donna Joan Nelson of Clarks, Nebraska), Donna Faye (who married Andy Engel. They now live at Vinita, Oklahoma. Robert Joseph was the youngest and married Vanetta Jacobs, and he now lives on the home place.

Sam was a grain and livestock farmer. He usually sold the baby calves in the fall and the cows could be heard for miles when this event took place. All the



Sam Wyman Family
Back l-r — Roy, Bill, Donna, Dorothy, Ted. **Front l-r** — Faye, Robert, Sam.

children were taught to milk cows. Faye did sell butter for a period of time. A special printing mold decorated each pound of butter. Chickens and geese were raised — picking the geese and making pillows with the feathers was always a big job. The young geese were dressed each fall — in time for Thanksgiving dinners.

There was always a nice orchard with all the different fruits one could wish for. A big garden and everyone also canned their own meat. The cellar and cave were filled with lots of good food for the winter months ahead.

There was also the smoke house where the ham and bacon was cured and smoked.

One can remember putting up ice in the ice house, in the winter. The threshing crews came in July, quantities of good food were cooked on the cook stove, with the flies wanting to come in the house also.

There was a bee shelter near the orchard — it was an art to be able to get the extra layer box of honey which the bees didn't need and the family did enjoy. Basil was usually good at this job. He lived with us part of the time after Annas death. He enjoyed watching Donna and Bob as they grew up. He would take them for a ride in the red wagon and peel apples for them from the orchard.

Sam was always a good provider for his family. The farm was always well kept and neat. He was a member of the District #23 school board for a number of years and it was during his tenure that District #23 consolidated with Silver Creek Schools, District #6.

The family attended Sunday School and church at the Methodist church in Silver Creek. Both Sam and Faye were members of the church board and active in the affairs of the church.

They retired to Osceola in 1962. Then in 1965 they bought an acreage in northeast part of Silver Creek, where they built a home and have since lived. Sam passed away December 15, 1980. *Submitted by Dorothy Burger*

FRANK E. WYMER FAMILY

Franklin Enos Wymer, son of Robert and Sarah (Westbrook) Wymer, was born in Bureau County, Illinois, where he received his education.

Mary Evelyn Adams, daughter of Robert and Amanda (Sill) Adams, was the first child born to her parents after their arrival in Merrick County. Her parents, with three older children, had come in a covered wagon from the east and homesteaded a quarter-section in 14-15-7.

As a young lady, she visited a sister in Illinois, met and married F.E. Wymer at Spring Valley. He was a carpenter for nine years and, rather than join a union, turned to farming. Eva, as she was known to her friends, was a very talented seamstress. At a time when yards and yards of material were used, she designed and made the dresses without a pattern.

Six coal mines in the area drew the criminal element to work the under-ground mines in the day time. It became unsafe to leave one's home at night due to the fighting, drinking, and brawling with knives and razors freely used. (There were fifty one saloons in Spring Valley, supplied by all the barrels of whiskey that could be brought into town by the best four-horse teams.) These reasons, plus the constant raise in farm rent, caused Mr. Wymer to seek a new location.

He made a trip to Nebraska, looking over the possibilities. Some of the land didn't appeal to him. He felt it was so poor he could have purchased it for a "song" and "sang" it himself. Before returning, he found a piece to his liking. He sold all but what he could bring on the train in a car, and settled four miles west of his wife's birthplace. Trouble wasn't over! He soon learned his horses suffered from a disease where the blood turned to water, and they would only live about a year. This was a hardship, to have to replace them constantly. Eventually he learned he could bring three-year-old mules on the farm and they would survive.

Many years he hauled prairie hay across the frozen Loup River to the Dinsdale Ranch on the other side. One morning his wife and baby son met him as he was about to set out on this trip. He asked what she was going to do. The water was running over ice, and the ice could give way at any time. She replied, "We're going along, and should you break through, we will all go at once." Needless to say, this ended the hay hauling.

Being a carpenter he designed, and together with the aid of H.M. Cox, built the six-bedroom house still on the farm. To this union were born three children: Wayne Burton Wymer, married Alice Bierkman. They now reside in Springfield, Oregon, Onilee (Mrs. Leroy Newlon), and LaVonne (Mrs. Dale Gress) both of whom are Merrick County residents. The Gresses live on the original Wymer farm. *Submitted by Onilee Wymer Newlon*



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wymer — 50th Anniversary

WILLIAM & CARRIE YEIK

William Henry Yeik was born February 26, 1868 in Ohio to Sarah Frame Yeik (b. March 25, 1842). His father died when he was an infant and his mother remarried. Grandparents were Daniel and Catherine Marsh Frame. An orphan at seventeen, he came by horseback to David City, Nebraska. He farmed near the Chris Whitmore farm, later following them to Archer. William and Carrie Elnora Whitmore were married at her parents home east of Archer on New Years Day, 1984. The young couple moved their possessions from David City to Archer in spring of 1897, coming by wagon. In a few years they purchased the Whitmore farm and it became the Yeik home where they lived and raised their eight children.

Mr. Yeik passed away January 4, 1921. After her husband's death Mrs. Yeik and the younger children moved into Central City where she died on May 6, 1930. Both are buried in the Central City cemetery. *Submitted by Marie Yeik Johnson*

YEIK CHILDREN

Lisa Marie, born May 9, 1897. Marie attended Central City High School and Business College. She served on the staff of the Central City Nonpareil for fifteen years. She and Leroy Johnson married, farmed, then moved into Polk where he operated Chevrolet business for twenty three years. Leroy was deputy sheriff twenty seven years and Mayor two years. Both are Methodists.

Clyde Sidney, born December 6, 1898 and died June 27, 1979, is buried at Torrington. Served with the navy in World War I. Married Ferne Oliver March 20, 1920 at Central City. In the fall of 1922, they homesteaded near Yoder, where he served on many local and Goshen County boards. Three sons: Bill, Calvin and Bob, all progressive ranchers. Daughter Leota and husband, John Freda now live in Miami.

Ben, born March 4, 1901. Single. Went to Coos Bay, Oregon in 1921 and worked in logging and timber. Served in World War II, doing construction work ahead of the marching army. Retired at Coos Bay where he gardens, fishes and hunts.

Lewis William, born August 12, 1902. Farmed the Yeik place after father's death in 1921. Married to Leone Farmer on November 3, 1924. Later he did construction work for County, State and Federal government during World War II. Later he formed the Yeik Construction Company with Headquarters at Torrington. They now live at Mesa, Arizona.

Maybelle, born January 27, 1905. Maybelle attended Nebraska Central College, then operated her own Beauty Shop in Central City a number of years. She married Frank Wert of Aurora, a farmer. Later they moved to Yoder and adopted two children, now both married after they moved to Littlerock California. Maybelle is a widow, working part time in her Beauty Shop besides helping in the home of a son who lives beside her.

Glen David, born June 22, 1906. Mechanically inclined. Served as flight instructor in Air Corp during World War II. Married Theresa Parish May 21, 1946. Living in Torrington. Bar owner and co-owner of Trail Hotel. Killed by car accident June 15, 1946, leaving a widow and two children, David four and a half and JoAnn a year. Now both are married and living in California.

Irene LIllian, born June 19, 1911. A graduate of C.C.H.S. and Nebraska Central, she received her R.N. degree from Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal in 1937. Was with Visiting Nurses Association of Omaha in 1940. Joined the army as a nurse in World War II, and finished twenty years of active duty. Still does volunteer work at Coos Bay where she and brother Ben share a home. Hobby — roses.

Eugene Dexter, born February 6, 1913. Attended C.C.H.S. Married Frances Bennett of Laramie on April 26, 1939. They lived in Denver where he was a heavy truck driver until 1947, except time out for navy duty in South Pacific area. For the next sixteen years he farmed and did Dairy work, selling the dairy business in 1973. Then in R.V. business which he sold in 1981. Semi retired now. They have two married daughters and six grandchildren. *Submitted by Marie Yeik Johnson*

J. PARKER YOUNG FAMILY

Jasper Parker (Park) Young, a Merrick County Judge for more than twenty-five years, was born in 1894 in Mitchell County Kansas. Three years later he immigrated with his parents, brothers: A.B., Ralph and Blaine, and sisters: Lula (Nash) and Blanche (Temple) to a farm in northcentral Merrick County.

He was educated in Merrick County schools and at Nebraska Central College. His reputation for integrity, concern for others, conscientiousness and the ability to overcome a physical handicap as the result of polio helped him gain the respect of those who knew him. As a result, he was appointed Deputy County Clerk and was later elected County Judge, a position he held until his death in 1964. He was active in the Methodist Church, American Red Cross, Republican Party and the Central City Cemetery Board.

In May, 1940, he was married to Isabel Ralston. She was born in Gothenburg, Nebraska and came to Merrick County in 1938 when she was hired as a teacher by the Central City Schools. She was educated at Hastings College and UNL where she earned a Bachelors Degree. She retired in 1974 after a long teaching career in Central City. She is a member of the Methodist Church and a former member of the library board.

They have one son, John, who lives in Omaha with his wife Sara and their two children, Joanna and Andrew. *Submitted by John P. Young*

ROBERT & SARAH YOUNG

Joseph Robert (Bob) Young, was born at Columbus, Indiana, February 2, 1861, to Samuel B. Young and Mariah Lockner. His grandfather immigrated to this country from Scotland when a young man, during a religious rebellion, and changed his name from Bingham to Young.

Bob migrated to Missouri to dig for coal in the mining territory with a brother. This venture was not successful for them, but others went a little farther and found the coal they were looking for. After a few years in the mines he left for Clarks, Nebraska, where his sister, Dice Miller, had homesteaded on what is known as the "Church Farm"



Bob Young Family — 1903

northwest of Clarks. He went to work for the Gibson Livestock Company. This job took him to Utah, buying sheep, etc., where he spent many lonely summers riding horseback over Utah. He married Sarah (Sadie) Ida Jewell, daughter of Urias and Harriett Jewell, early settlers of Logan, Harrison County, Iowa, at Logan, December 20, 1893. She was born at Princeton, Missouri, April 2, 1870.

Immediately after their marriage, they came to Clarks. They lived in town working for the Gibson Company until Bob started farming for himself, first on the old Cowgill place, one mile northeast of Clarks. It was here that four of his children were born, Florence Mae Golder in 1896, Harriett Marie Campbell in 1898, Joseph Robert Young in 1900, and Edith Eleanor Grieve in 1902. Hazel Belle was born in 1906 at the Richardson place.

Bob was an avid hunter, and spent many weeks on the Platte River. At that time there was no limit placed on the amount of game they could have. His hunting partners were: Sandy Griswold, sports editor for the World Herald and Al Pixley, auditor for Northwestern Bell and official photographer for the World Herald, both of Omaha. Also, Dick Cosner, manager of the Foster Lumber Company and Lute White, a company employee, both of Clarks.

Our mother often said she didn't wish to see another duck. We all had down pillows and down featherbeds. Bob was an active member of the Knights of Pythias. He also took a great interest in political matters, being an ardent Republican. He was elected to different positions, which he held with credit to himself and his party.

His next farming venture was on the Richardson place one mile northwest of Clarks, where the Merrick County Fair was held for many years. Then he moved to the Bell place, one mile southwest of Clarks. It was here that he died, August 29, 1907. He had fallen on the ice while hunting and received a brain concussion.

While living on the Bell Place, we had to fight prairie fires with wet gunny sacks, since there was no fire fighting equipment available.

Sadie Young sold all the farming equipment and bought the new Guthrie house in town, where she raised her five children to adulthood by keeping teachers and doing dressmaking. She earned the love and respect of family and friends by her devotion and sacrifice. Hazel Belle died in January, 1933. Sadie died August 16, 1937. Besides her children, she left eight grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren.

One never dies if he has left something behind to be remembered by. Surely this is true of Bob and Sadie Young.

All are buried in the family plot in the Clarks Village Cemetery. *Submitted by Daughter Edith Y. Grieve*

THE ZAMZOW FAMILIES

Sophia Zamzow, a widow, and her four sons, Gottlieb, Gottfried, Albert and Frank, arrived in this country from Pommern, Germany, in April, 1862. At the Immigration Office they anglicized their family name to be known as Sampson. They first settled near Portage, Wisconsin.

In 1974, Sophia, Frank and his wife and Albert and his wife and three children, arrived in Merrick County via covered wagon and settled southwest of Archer. Frank took a homestead on the East half of the southwest Quarter 30-14-7, and Albert purchased the Northwest Quarter 24-14-8 for $475, which he soon sold and acquired the Northwest Quarter 36-14-8. Frank and Albert owned these tracts throughout their lives, and both are now occupied by their grandchildren.

Albert and his wife Johanna (Loeffelbein) had twelve children, Anna (Mrs. John) Wiegert, Louise (died at age twelve), William, Johanna (died in infancy), Minnie (Mrs. Herman) Hanke, August, Albert, Frank, Emil (died in infancy), an infant son who died at birth), John, and Meta Matilda (Tillie).

Frank and his wife Wilhelmina (Nemitz) had fourteen children, Emma Wegner, Henry, Herman, Julius, Amelia, Frank, Otto, Martha Foster, Anna, Josie Fieselman, Hulda Schmaltz, Alma Briggs, Louise Rudolf, and Louis.

Frank was a talented musician. For a short time he and his family lived in a little board shack just east of the present Zion United Methodist Church, and then for six years in a two-room sod house with an attic on his homestead. Nothing is known of the early dwellings of Albert's family, but both Frank and Albert, probably in the 1880's, built large, square, two-story houses on their respective farms. Both continued as farmers throughout their active lives, prospered, acquired additional real estate, and have numerous descendants living in Merrick County.



Albert and Johanna Zamzow

The names of the Sampson families appear in detail on numerous old census and real estate records from 1862 to 1892. However, in 1892, Frank gave a mortgage on land he had acquired under the name of Sampson, and signed his name as "Zamzow." Even then, he acquired land in 1893 under the name of "Sampson." However, from that date forward, all records of both families and their descendants appear under the name of Zamzow with the exception of Albert's son, William, who had reached maturity, gone to work as a hired hand in a strictly English speaking community, married the boss' daughter, settled in the Fairview community, and he and his descendants continued under the name of Sampson. Just what prompted the return to the original Zamzow name after thirty years as Sampsons, is not known.

Frank Zamzow died November 22, 1921 and Albert on November 29, 1922.

ALBERT F. ZAMZOW

Albert F. Zamzow was born December 22, 1842, at Stoeven, Falkenburg, Germany. He came to this country from Teschendorf, Kreis Dramburg, Pommern, Germany. He had one brother Frank A. Zamzow.

He married Johanna Loeffelbein on February 18, 1870. Johanna was also born at Stoeven, Falkenburg, Germany in 1847. She had two brothers and two sisters, Fred Loeffelbein, August Loeffelbein, Bertha Scherbert, and Wilhelmina Scherbert. There are numerous Loeffelbein descendants living in the western part of Merrick County, Nebraska. It is my understanding that the Zamzows and the Loeffelbeins came to this country from Germany together.

To Albert and Johanna Zamzow twelve children were born:

Anna, born January 27, 1871. She married John Wiegert. To John and Anna Wiegert twelve children were born. Anna passed away December 12, 1932, and is buried in the Wiegert Cemetery.

Louise, born in 1872 and passed away in 1884.

William G. Sampson (Zamzow), born September 15, 1873. He married Ora Ferris. To William and Ora Sampson three children were born. William passed away August 25, 1933.

Johanna, born in 1874 and passed away the same year.

Minnie, born April 27, 1876. She married Herman Hanke. To Minnie and Herman Hanke six children were born. Minnie passed away December 17, 1946.

August C., born April 12, 1878. He married Bertha Rembolt. To August C. and Bertha Zamzow three children were born. August passed away October 7, 1948.

Albert F., born April 1, 1881. He married Olamae Coomes. To Albert and Olamae two children were born Albert passed away August 21, 1944.

Frank F., born February 19, 1882. He married Lydia Rembolt. To Frank and Lydia two children were born. Frank passed away September 14, 1957.

Emil "Bob", born in 1885 and passed away in 1886.

Infant twin of John Zamzow born in 1888 and died in 1888.

John P., born April 24, 1888. He married Della Fuehrer. To John and Della two children were born. John passed away December 31, 1955.

Meta Matilda "Tillie," born March 28, 1890 and passed away June 23, 1967.

While they purchased the Northwest Quarter 24-14-8 in Merrick County, Nebraska on December 19, 1874, for $475. they soon sold this and moved to the Northwest Quarter 36-14-8 and in 1890 built the house which is now owned by their grandson, Clarence Hanke. In 1908 they moved to a home in the town of Archer. Albert F. passed away November 29, 1922, and is buried in the Evangelical Cemetery near Archer. Johanna lived in Archer until her death on October 15, 1941, at nearly ninety four years of age. She is also buried in the Evangelical Cemetery near Archer. *Written by Darlene Wiegert Levene*

FRANK ZAMZOW FAMILY

Frank Anton Zamzow was born in Stoeven, Germany, September 2, 1847, where he lived until April, 1862. He and his brother, Albert, left Germany and after a stormy voyage over, they finally landed in Quebec instead of Portage, Wisconsin, their destination. His two older brothers had previously came to Portage and as the custom was, they sponsored the trip over for Father and Uncle Albert.

They heard that land was available in Nebraska and decided to go. Father filed on a homestead south and west of where the village of Archer is located. Uncle Albert filed on land a mile west.

They returned to Portage where, later, Father met his future wife, Wilhelmina Nemitz. They were married December 26, 1873. They left Portage October 1, 1874, and arrived in Nebraska October 22, 1874, traveling by covered wagon. Their mother came with them. Grandmother Nemitz lived with Father and Mother. Grandmother Zamzow lived with Uncle Albert's family.

The two mothers were close friends, and often expressed the wish they might die the same day. God granted them this wish. Grandmother Nemitz died first, and, as the custom was, Father went to Central City to get a casket. While he was gone, Grandmother Zamzow died. Their services were held the same day as they had wished.

Father was practically a master of all trades. To operate the cream separator, he installed a tread mill. A little burro furnished the power. Sometimes he had to be coaxed with an ear of corn to keep him going. It was a sad day for all of us when brother, Otto, called to us to come and see what happened during the night. There lay our little burro, gone to "burro heaven."

One day Father was in Central City on business.



Frank Anton Zamzow Family — 1897

While there, he saw a swing built of lumber. He inspected it and next day got lumber in Archer and built one like it. We enjoyed it for many years.

Mother had some good old German recipes. A favorite one was a cookie recipe called Springerle, which is an anise flavored cookie. To make them, a Springerle rolling pin was used which is carved in squares. Each square has a picture which is printed on the cookies.

Father received his musical training in Germany where he finished a four-year course in three years. The headmaster had thought he had no musical talent.

Mother had a beautiful soprano voice, and often sang songs to us she had learned in Germany. Some of our fondest memories were of the music we had in our home. In later years, we had our own family orchestra, which our parents enjoyed so much.

We were a large family and have many memories of Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, where the main item was roast goose and dressing.

When the Evangelical Church was built and dedicated, Father was in charge of the music. There was no musical instrument, so he used a tuning fork to get the right key.

These are some of the cherished memories of our home life. *Submitted by Louise (Zamzow) Rudolf, (Mrs. George Rudolf)*

FRANK & MINNIE ZAMZOW

The following account is a brief, gleaned from the writings of Mrs. Emma Wegner in 1942. Mrs. Wegner was the eldest child of this marriage.

Frank Zamzow was born in Storen Pommerany, Germany, on September 2, 1847. Frank married Wilhelmina Nemitz on December 26, 1873. She had been born on March 22, 1857, at Zamaro, Germany. They both had migrated to Wisconsin before their marriage. Soon after their marriage, they traveled by covered wagon to Nebraska and homesteaded the East Half Southwest Quarter 30-14-7 in Merrick County on January 20, 1883.

They first lived in a little board shack, but later built a sod house with two rooms and an attic. Frank owned both a team of horses and a yoke of oxen. Sod was broken with a breaking plow, corn was planted on sod, hoed by hand and husked into buckets and later shelled by hand. Other crops were wheat, rye, millet, some oats, barley, corn, and sorghum. Grass was abundant, and fresh cows had to be milked three times a day. Crops were ground into meal at Brewer's Mill which was located on the Platte River near where the Ostermans now live. Creeks had to be forded on the way. The only trees along the Loup, Platte and Prairie Creek, including willows, wild plum trees and wild grapes. Ducks, geese, cranes, prairie chickens, and quail were abundant. Prairie chickens were killed by the thousands and packed in barrels and shipped to Omaha.

Church, school and social life were not neglected, with a school house built in District #46 situated on the southeast corner of the farm now owned by the Albert Wegner family. In this school house, a Sunday School was organized, and later the Evangelical Church was erected where the Zion Church now stands.

The first post office was located in the home where Dwain Wegner now lives. In 1888, the C.B.&Q Railroad built a branch from Lincoln to Burwell. Prior to that time, the Adams Creamery had been built on a bend of Prairie Creek about one and one fourth miles south and west of Archer, with a little store. Following the advent of the railroad these two were moved to Archer. Emil Hansen and J.B. Templin ran them. Frank milked as high as thirty cows, with the cream separator coming from a little burro and tread power.

Frank was a good musician, and could play most any instrument. Through his efforts, a singing school was organized with an old fashioned tuning fork to give the key notes. Many times, the soddy was so crowded with singers that the oil lamp was extinguished from lack of fresh air. He also organized a band. The family was noted for their musicals, and the children sang at hundreds of funerals over the years. Entertainment was in the form of literary societies, chautauquas and spelling bees, plus the holidays. The Archer Band, led by E.T. Sullivan, one year captured first prize at the Nebraska State Fair. Frank and Minnie had fourteen children, with all but one living to adulthood. Three of these children are still living at this writing. They are Hulda Zamzow Schmaltz, Sunset Manor, Central City; Alma Miller, Archer; and Louise Zamzow Rudolf, Coolidge Center, Palmer. *Submitted by Betty Schmaltz Unger*



Frank and Minnie Zamzow

ERVIN ZEHR FAMILY

Ervin Leonard Zehr, the son of Kris and Anna Zehr, was born December 2, 1907. He lived on a farm northeast of Palmer with his brother John Zehr.

On December 17, 1939 he married Vanda Lucille Snodgrass. John moved into Palmer and Ervin continued farming there.

Four children were born to this family: Nellie Ann June 9, 1942, LeRoy Edward April 14, 1946, Darlene Louise March 16, 1949, and Carol Jean November 18, 1950.

The children attended School Dist. #51 in Merrick County. The family are members of the First Christian Church in Palmer, Nebraska. Two teachers lived with the Zehr family. They are Mrs. Ernest Hladky and Mrs. Lyle Rieken.

The family later moved to the Anna Stanek farm which they farmed for several years. The children rode the school bus and attended the Palmer Public Schools.

In 1955, Vanda started working in Central City at the Dukes Rest Home. In 1961, Ervin's health started failing and in 1965 the family moved into Central City. The children then finished their education in the Central City Schools. In August 1965, Vanda started working at Nordstedts where she still is employed at this time. On April 30, 1968 Ervin passed away and he is buried at Pierce Chapel Cemetery near Clarks, Nebraska.

LeRoy married Vicki Sue Abbott of Palmer, Nebraska on March 14, 1965. He is in business for himself as beekeeper and they have two daughters. Christine Lynette, born June 15, 1966 and Stacy Lynn, born January 28, 1968.

On May 25, 1969 Nellie married Edward Franklyn Travers and they made their home in Central City. Ed passed away September 15, 1974. Nellie is employed at Bill's Volume Sales in Central City.

Darlene married Charles Van Ostrand on May 24, 1980 and they live in Grand Island, Nebraska. Darlene is employed at the Merrick County Welfare Office.

Carol attended Platte College in Columbus, Nebraska and received her L.P.N. degree and has worked in hospitals in Aurora, Nebraska, Greeley, Colorado, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, and is at the present time continuing her nursing at Mary Lanning Hospital in Hastings, Nebraksa. *Submitted by Vanda Zehr*

JOSEPH ZELAZNY FAMILY

Joseph Zelazny was born in Polk County, Nebraska to Matthew and Katherine (Legenza) Zelazny on September 1, 1882 and died June 17, 1959. His wife Katherine was born in Merrick County, Nebraska to George and Mary (Smola) Starostka on February 12, 1889, and died April 18, 1979. Their parents came to Nebraska from Krakow Poland.

Joseph Zelazny and Katherine Starostka were married on September 30, 1907. They farmed for three years near Shelby then they purchased a farm north of Clarks in Merrick County in 1910. They built a beautiful home in 1920. Upon retiring they moved into Clarks. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on September 29, 1957, with a high mass in the St. Peter's Catholic church. The Reverend Paul Kannaby, pastor, officiated at the ceremony. They had six children:

Victoria (Mrs. Adam Stempek) Duncan. She taught in rural schools before her marriage. For ten years they lived near Clarks. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on February 1, 1981. They have three children: Edna (Mrs. Art Sutko), Ronald married Connie Leimser and Karen (Mrs. Dan Adkisson) all of Columbus Nebraska.

Belle Marie Zelazny (deceased) lived in Portland, Oregon and worked in a store. She had been married, but did not have any children. She died June 5, 1971. She is buried at Clarks.

Eddie is deceased. He married Clara Siemek.



Joseph and Katherine Zelazny

They lived on the family farm until they retired and moved to Columbus. Eddie died August 3, 1980. He is buried at Columbus. Their children are: Rose Marie (Mrs. Henry Koperski) of Farwell, Joan (Mrs. Tony Oberhauser) of Omaha and Carol (Mrs. Bernard Urkoski) of Belluve.

Helen (Mrs. Earl Hall) Clearwater Florida. Before her marriage she worked in Portland Oregon and lived with Belle Marie. Their children are: Bobby Harding of Maryland, Jerry and Jimmy Harding of Clearwater and Patti Hall (Mrs. Chris Sipiora) of Clearwater is deceased. Patti died June 13, 1980. She is buried at Largo, Florida.

Lawrence is living in Omaha. He has never married. He has worked in Portland, Oregon and California.

Dorothy (Mrs. Jerry Jurgens) of Fremont. She likes to work as a waitress. They lived in California before moving to Fremont. Their children are: Eugene Teterus of Las Vegas, Nevada, Annette (Mrs. Roy Johnson) of Columbus and Kathy Teterus of Fremont.

There are nineteen living great grandchildren and one deceased. They are: Frank Torczon III; Tim, Joe and Regina Sutko; Troy, Trent, Travis and Tyler Stempek; Shane, Michile, and Jon Adkisson; Debbie Bruntz and Diana Bruntz (Mrs. Tim Wallace); Tammy Oberhauser; Sherri and Todd Urkoski; Becki Ann Sipiora; Jake Johnson and Chris Teterus. Troy Edward Urkoski is deceased. He died in 1971.



Adam and Victoria Stempek

The two great, great grandchildren are: Frank Torczon III, married Chris Szatho and they have a little boy named Matthew, and Diana (Bruntz) Wallace married Tim Wallace and they have a little boy named Timmy. This covers five generations of the Joseph and Katherine Zelazny family. Both are buried in Clarks Cemetery. *Submitted by Victoria Zelazny Stempek*

EDDIE ZICHEK FAMILY

Eddie and Agnes Zichek moved to Merrick County in 1926 from Lincoln, Nebraska. Ed was a native of Saline County while Agnes had been born and reared in Lincoln. Ed was a descendent of Czech ancestry while Agnes's father had come from Hungary as a young man and her mother of traditional German lineage. With them they brought their four children, Melvin, Donald, Daisy, and Harvey. Both Ed and Agnes resided the remainder of their lives in Merrick County living in the Central City area until purchasing a farm near Palmer. Upon retiring from the farm, they returned to Central City buying a home there. They resided in this home until death called each home.

Melvin was married in 1942 to Dorothy Patrick of Ulysses, Nebraska, whom he had met while pastoring the Christian Church of Ulysses. Dorothy was the daughter of Bessie and George Patrick.

In addition to his pastorates Melvin also taught and administered school systems spending thirty nine years as a school man. Melvin attended Nebraska Central College receiving his BA degree, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, receiving his MA degree, the McKinley-Roosevelt Educational Institute of Chicago, receiving his D. Literature degree with further graduate work both at the University of Nebraska and Central State University of Oklahoma.

Melvin served pastorates at Brock, Nebraska, Ulysses, Nebraska, and Central City, Nebraska. He taught rural schools in Merrick County, was principal at the Alvo Consolidated Schools in Cass County, superintendent of the Archer Public Schools at Archer, head of the department of speech and English at the Central City Public Schools, and superintendent of the Marquette Consolidated Schools of Hamilton County.

Melvin is listed in a number of biographical anthologies two of the most well known being the A.N. Marquis Who's Who series and the Dictionary of International Biography published in London, England.

Melvin and Dorothy have one daughter, Shannon Elaine, who teaches social studies and English at Northwest High School, Grand Island, Nebraska. Dorothy and Melvin reside in Grand Island where they have purchased their home.

Donald was married to DeLoris Peters, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Peters of Merrick County. They have no family. They purchased a home in Grand Island where they reside.

Harvey was married to DeLoris May of Central City, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Getko. They have two children, a daughter, Linda, and a son, Ron. They also own their home and reside in Grand Island.

Daisy was married to Elsmer Kuskie and lives near Central City with her husband on their farm. They have a son, Larry Dale, and a daughter Evelyn LaVerne.

Harvey is a lead-man for the Bonna Villa Homes. Donald is retired. Melvin has the distinction of serving a single congregation of the Christian Church in Nebraska longer than any other pastor, having served the Central City First Christian Church for over thirty one years. *Submitted by Melvin Zichek and Daisy Kuskie*

ADOLF ZLOMKE

In 1888, Grandfather married Anna Barbara Faber at Atkinson, Nebraska. They were blessed with a large family. In the spring of 1915, they traveled by covered wagon to Burwell. There the loaded wagon, family and all, was put on a train and transported to Archer. From there, they drove the remaining five and one half miles south to their new home. They left behind three sons, two of them married. One son and eight daughters accompanied them. Another daughter was born in the fall.

That son and five daughters have called Merrick County home. George married Evelyn Bivens, Lizzie married Roy Wagner, Edna married Arthur Rudolf, Sophia married Lisle Mason, Esther married Albert Rudolf. Gladys married Marvin Sims and they made their home in California. Edward, in time, moved his family to Merrick County also.

Their other children were Anna Lanstrom of Illinois, Malinda Bates of California, Arthur, Frederick and Caroline (Lena) Horner, who lived in northern Nebraska. A daughter, Christina Dillon, died at an early age leaving four small children: William, Lyle, Samuel and Luella.

Adolf and Anna lived in Merrick County sixteen years until their deaths, which took place just one week apart. Anna, who had suffered for many years with the disease "sugar diabetes," just seemed not able to go on after the death of her husband.



Adolf and Anna Zlomke

Although Adolf was a stern man, he always had the best interests of his family at heart. Having one son left at home, it fell to the daughters to help with much of the farm work. Like many young people, they sometimes felt this was being hard on them, but most of the fun times they had together seemed to come out of these chore times.

There was the time the horse ran away with a couple of them and didn't stop until they were in the stall of the barn. Then there was the time a snake was crawling up the leg of one picking strawberries. There were times when someone on the haystack would get a load of hay dumped on her, not always in innocence. Many have been the discussions as to who always got the worst jobs.

Grandmother made up for all that, though. She was a kind, thoughtful, and generous person. With the family's help, she raised large gardens, containing the usual vegetables and other things such as rhubarb, horseradish, and herbs. They butchered their own animals and had their own smoke house. They preserved from these for winter use. They took their own grains to the mill to be made into flour.

When the children were small, they always kept track of all the hidden hen's nests. On Easter, these nests were always filled with beautiful colored eggs.

Trips to town were few. Most of the family needs were ordered through mail order catalogs. Premiums were usually given on orders, and grandma filled many a trousseau this way. *Submitted by Aileen Rudolf Rawlings*

FREDERICK ZLOMKE FAMILY

The Zlomke family had its beginning in Merrick County when Frederick and Christina (Hegner) Zlomke left Prussia and arrived in Grand Island with their eleven children in 1871.

It must have seemed an eternity to cross the ocean, to these people who had never sailed before. What great courage to uproot a whole family, putting them on a "cattle boat" for a journey to a strange land. To know there could be no turning back. To have left almost everything they had treasured behind. Few of us have arrived at a station to find no one spoke our language.

They filed for their homestead on September 3, 1871, in Section 18, Township 11, North-Range 8

West, Vieregg Township and proved up on it in 1879. The lnad was quite near the Platte River. Wood for heating was not far away. Being lowland, there was moisture ready for growing crops. Crops consisted mostly of spring wheat, rye, oats and corn. There were lots of wild ducks, geese, prairie chicken, and quail to hunt. The birds appreciated the new diet brought by the settlers and sometimes came in such large flocks they had to be scared off. The worst grasshopper raid ravaged the area in 1874.

Adolf Zlomke, my grandfather, filed for his homestead in Rock County, as did four of his brothers. There they raised livestock, potatoes, and small grains. All of the brothers returned to Merrick County in time.

Leopold Zlomke married Amelia Rudolf, and they moved their family to Texas to make their home. Other members of the family were: Gustav, Ernest, Bernard, Theodore, Amel, Frederick, Augusta, Mary, Martha and Otto.

They were hard-working people. These immigrants from Germany, in search of a place they could worship the God they loved and raise their families in that love, free of the war-torn homeland, were religious people. They read their Bible and gave thanks every day. They became members of the Evangelical Mission and the "Wiegert" Church of western Merrick County. They raised large families, who can attest to the wisdom of the venture of these people.



Christina Hegner Zlomke

In 1870, the population of Merrick County was 557 persons. In 1873, there were 913 school children between the ages of five and twenty-one. In 1874, there were 1096 children with only 792 attending school. By 1900, my ancestors were among only 623 persons from Germany living in Merrick County.

Great Grandfather died in 1885. Great Grandmother lived until 1906. They rest in the Wiegert Cemetery. *Submitted by Aileen Rudolf Rawlings*

ADRIAN V. ZOUCHA FAMILY

Adrian was born in Clarks, Nebraska, July 7, 1922, son of Jacob and Josephine Lassek Zoucha who were born of Polish immigrants.

The era in which Adrian was born had seen the end of horse power and the beginning of Model T Fords, farm tractors, combines, and eventually space capsules and moon landings.

One scene that Adrian remembers with a touch of nostalgia is watching his neighbor leading his sheep to the stockyards in Clarks. Sometimes they stretched out for nearly a mile. A billygoat was used to lead the sheep. Adrian's billygoat was used many times for this purpose and Adrian was paid the hefty amount of seventy five cents each time.

On February 14, 1952, Adrian married Cecilia Czapla who was born December 2, 1927, daughter of Leo and Belle Micek Czapla also of Polish ancestory. The history of Cecilia's family centered around men of incredible strength. It was written in the Lincoln Star in 1926 that her great grandfather "was able to grasp the wheel of a threshing machine separator and lift the end of the machine from the



Adrian Zoucha Family

ground. Others tell of having seen him lie on his back beneath a loaded grain wagon and lift the box from its trucks."

The Zoucha family, going back several generations, were musically oriented. The music they played was passed on from generation to generation by ear. Not until our present day was Polish music, played by small village and country musicians, set to music.

In order to pay tribute to the Zoucha family for their musical abilities of the past and present, and as a requiem to Polish music in the Zoucha family, Adrian has made a record album comprised of their music.

To Adrian and Cecilia's union were born one son, Thomas, March 14, 1953, and two daughters, Deborah, June 25, 1954, and Janice, May 24, 1958. Their children attended a country school, District #37, until it was consolidated with District #4, the Central City Public School system, in 1966. Thomas married Kristin Kelley of Early, Iowa, December 29, 1979. They currently reside in Omaha. Deborah married Derilyn Beck of Clarks, April 28, 1973 in Central City. They currently reside in Clarks. Janice is attending the University of Nebraska at Omaha and is engaged to be married to William Mark Jensen of Omaha in September 1981. They will reside in Omaha.

Cecilia's banner year was 1976, not only that it was the Bicentennial year but she was to see her husband's dream of making a Zoucha record album become a reality. Her son, Thomas, graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha with a degree in Criminal Justice and also earned his pilot's license. Her daugther, Deborah, brought forth her first grandchild, Ryan Dean. And also her daughter, Janice, not only graduated from Central City Senior High School but achieved high honors in her track effort.

This is being written from a little country gas station and cafe three miles east of Central City which for the last twenty-two years has provided our family with country fresh air spiced with small town flavor, a great combination upon which to build the children's future. *Submitted by Mrs. Adrian Zoucha*

GEORGE ZOUCHA

George was born in the Galicia region of Poland in 1833 to parents of noble ancestory where they resided on a country estate near the city of Tarnov.

When George was five years old, Austria, to consolidate its holdings in Poland after the partition of Poland, sent out Army patrols to ferret out dissidents opposed to their rule putting lives of noblemen and patriots in jeopardy.

George's family estate was in the line of these patrols and his father sensing the danger, took George to a childless couple for safekeeping, as their place was not in line of the patrols at that time. As the patrols moved in closer the danger was imminent but George's father would not leave his home, and the rest of the family chose to stay at his sid. In the melee that followed the house caught on fire and, as his parents and a brother and sister dashed out of the house, they were caught in a crossfire and killed. This left George as the lone survivor, so he was taken into the home of the couple where he was at the time of the disaster, and they raised him to manhood.

George married Anna Olsufka, and after their second child they immigrated to America. Altogether they had ten children, and one of the three who ultimately moved to Merrick County was Jake Zoucha in 1919, where he bought a farm one and one half miles north of Clarks. This farm was mostly prairie so they had to build their home and out buildings. Below is a picture taken shortly after the buildings were built. The little feller in the car is Ben.

Jake and Josephine farmed their land until his retirement in 1956, and then a year later he passed away followed by Josephine in 1964. At their passing they left five children; Ben, Lambert, Adrian, Marcelline and Marie; and thirteen grandchildren who carry on the heritage of George Zoucha, the orphan who died in 1938, at the age of 105. *Submitted by Cecelia Zoucha*

MARIE ZOUCHA

The seventh child, whose life evolved primarily around education, was born November 7, 1926, at Clarks, to Jacob and Josephine (Lassek) Zoucha.



Jake Zoucha Home

The first four grades of my education began at District #62, a one-room rural school. Grades five through twelve were spent in the Clarks Public School system, where I took Normal Training under the superior guidance of Lelia Moorman. In my senior year, one week of practice-teaching in spring of 1943 was done in District 7, east of Clarks where Rita (Goerl) Sweet was teaching.

Mrs. Marie (Norval) Kirby offered my first teaching contract for District #57 in Polk County in the fall of 1945. The next five years were in Districts #28, #32, and #61 in Merrick County.

While teaching District #32, located west of Chapman, on November 10, 1948, a blizzard descended upon us. Four remaining pupils and I happily greeted the nextdoor farmer, Theodore Buchfinck, who came to our rescue about 2:00 P.M. The well-bundled group grasped hands as Mr. Buchfinck led us toward his home in the raging storm that literally "cut" into our faces. The fence line that was followed almost led us away from the house. Mrs. Buchfinck had four extra overnight guests who enjoyed their hospitality as well as the scrumptious homemade chili.

When teaching the upper grades in District 28 in Hall County from 1954-1957, I was privileged to teach Pamela Rosenkotler who received her education by a two-way radio, an invaluable device which enabled us to get the Grand Island Rural Fire Department for a fire (natural gas stove) in the lower-grade room. Larry Catlett, an eight-grade student, had the fire extinguished, however, by the time the Fire Department arrived.



Marie Zoucha

After my father's death in 1957, the Clarks Board of Education asked me to teach in Clarks. Eventually, this position required a B.A. Degree in Education, which I received in the summer of 1963 from Kearney State College. Many summers, from 1954-1963, were spent in obtaining the diploma. The first nine hours, from Nebraska Central College in Central City, Nebraska, were obtained in the summers of 1947 and 1948.

A highlight while teaching at Clarks was my being nominated for and receiving the Freedoms Foundation Valley Forge Classroom Teacher's Medal in 1964. Fifty-nine teachers from throughout the nation and I were scholarship recipients in the summer of 1965 to attend the initial Freedom Foundation's three-week Seminar on Preservation of the Principles of Freedom under the direction of Richard V. Allen and Paul J. Friedrich. After being greeted by John D. Eisenhower at Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge on July 4th, we were guests at a luncheon where I was privileged to chat with General Omar Bradley.

In 1972, Mary Badura, a friend, and I made our European trip to Rome, Venice, Holy Land, Greece, and Poland.

My being nominated and receiving the 1980 Aksarben Good Neighbor Award is another cherished possession. *By Marie Zoucha*

The End

Happy times
and bygone days
are never lost . . .
In truth,
they grow more wonderful
within the heart that keeps them.
Kay Andrew



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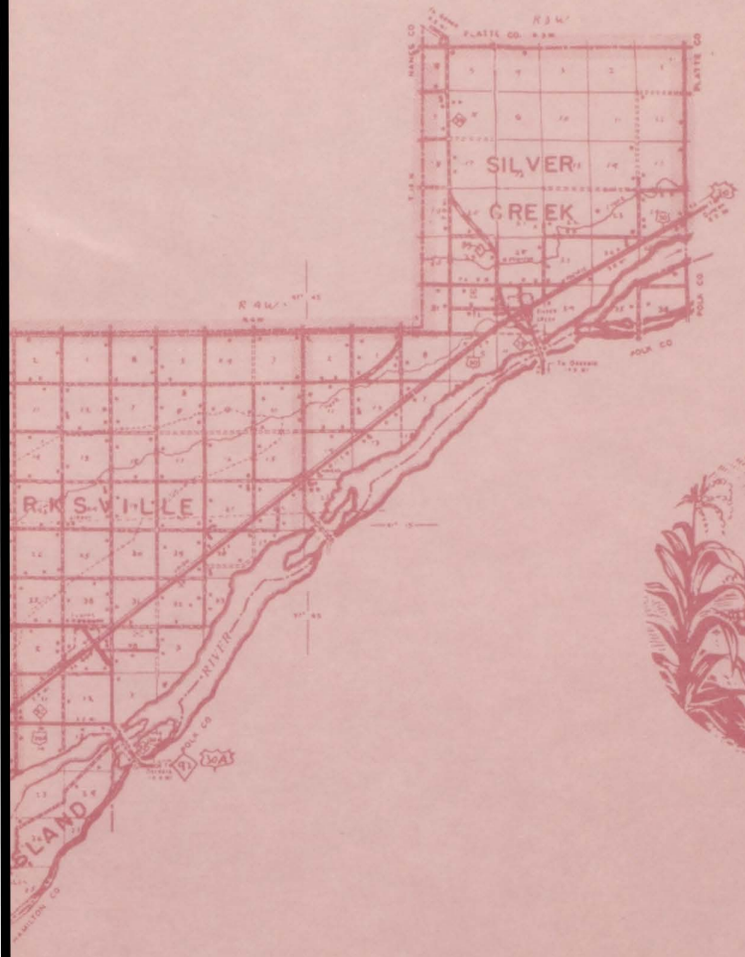
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MERRICK COUNTY
NEBRASKA
SCALE 1 / 125,000
N
MEAD
LOUP
MIDLAND
LONE
PRAIRIE
CREEK
TREE
CHAPMAN
NEBRASKA





Census of Merrick County

1860 —	44
1870 —	557
1875 —	3,100
1880 —	5,341
1910 —	10,379
1920 —	10,763
1930 —	10,619
1950 —	8,812
1960 —	8,364
1970 —	8,751
1980 —	8,945

